







# THE HAND OF MAN









## THE HAND OF MR. GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

This imprint of the hand of Mr. George Bernard Shaw reveals the secret of his genius. The Head line, which is the middle one of the three main lines shown in the palm of the hand, is unusually well balanced. There is a definite creative curve of the outer (right hand) edge of the hand, while the spatulate or rather bulgy termination of the third finger indicates dramatic ability. The little finger is long, showing literary ability. The combination of these traits results in an amazing personality—one of the most outstanding figures of to-day.

# THE HAND OF MAN

*A PRACTICAL TREATISE OF  
THE SCIENCE OF HAND READING  
DEALING IN DETAIL WITH ITS  
PSYCHOLOGICAL, SEXUAL  
SUPERSTITIOUS AND  
MEDICAL ASPECTS*

BY

NOEL JAQUIN

*Author of Scientific Palmistry  
The Hand and Disease, Hand Reading Made Easy*

'The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars,  
but in ourselves, that we are underlings.'

LONDON  
FABER & FABER LIMITED  
24 RUSSELL SQUARE



# Contents

CHAP.		PAGE
I.	HAND READING—THE SCIENCE KNOWN AS PALMISTRY	11
II.	THE SHAPE OF THE HUMAN HAND	21
III.	THE MARKINGS OF THE HUMAN HAND— HOW TO MAKE IMPRINTS	43
IV.	THE LIFE AND MENTAL LINES	56
V.	THE SEX QUESTION	71
VI.	MINOR PSYCHOLOGICAL INDICATIONS	99
VII.	AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL	115
VIII.	THE SIGNPOSTS OF DESTINY—THE SUPER- STITIOUS ASPECT	133
IX.	THE HAND IN HEALTH AND DISEASE	165
X.	DIAGNOSIS	185
XI.	PRACTICAL HAND READING—AN EXAMINA- TION OF SOME ACTUAL CASES	209
	INDEX	265



# Illustrations

## THE HAND OF MR. GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

	<i>frontispiece</i>
1. THE HAND OF THE GORILLA	<i>facing page 24</i>
2. AN APEX	<i>page 36</i>
3. THE MOUNTS	<i>facing page 38</i>
4. TYPES OF FINGER PRINTS	44
5. THE LINES OF THE HAND	52
6. DANGER AND TRAVEL	58
7. THE HEAD LINE	60
8. ENORMOUS WILL-POWER	66
9. LACK OF EMOTIONAL CONTROL	86
10. A PHYSICAL SEX URGE	88
11. A BISEXUAL TYPE	90
12. THE HAND OF AN INVERT	92
13. SEXUAL COLDNESS	94
14. A CRIMINAL TYPE	96
15. RESISTANCE LINES	102
16. TAKEN WHEN IN DESPAIR	108
17. LATER HAPPY CONDITIONS	110
18. HEALTH AFFECTING THE LIFE	138
19. TWO YEARS LATER	140
20. BREAKS	150
21. INFLUENCE LINES	152
22. THE SQUARE	154
23. MARRIAGE	158
24. TIME ON THE HAND	162



# Illustrations

25. THE FINGER NAILS	<i>page</i> 179
26. HOW THE MICROSCOPE DETECTS DISEASE	<i>facing page</i> 180
27. MALARIA	182
28. BACTERIAL INFECTION	184
29. INTESTINAL ACIDITY	186
30. A 'NERVY' HEAD LINE	<i>page</i> 187
31. POSITIONS OF MALFORMATIONS OF RIDGES	<i>facing page</i> 188
32. MALFORMATION CAUSED BY METALLIC AB- SORPTION	<i>page</i> 190
33. MALFORMATION INDICATING ULCERATION	191
34. RHEUMATIC PREDISPOSITION	<i>facing page</i> 192
35. A 'FLABBY' HEART	<i>page</i> 194
36. MICRO-PHOTOGRAPH OF A PORTION OF THE IMPRINT OF THE HAND OF THE LATE SIR A. CONAN DOYLE	<i>facing page</i> 194
37. NERVY HEART ACTION	<i>page</i> 195
38. DEATH FROM HEART DISEASE	<i>facing page</i> 196
39. CANCER MALFORMATION OF THE RIDGES	<i>page</i> 199
40. A DESTRUCTIVE INHERITANCE	<i>facing page</i> 213
41. NON COMPOS MENTIS	214
42. AN UNSCRUPULOUS TYPE	216
43. MURDER	218
44. INCOMPATIBILITY OF TEMPERAMENT—HUS- BAND	220
45. INCOMPATIBILITY OF TEMPERAMENT—WIFE	222
46. LACK OF STABILITY	224
47. HEALTH AFFECTING MIND	226
48. AN IMPETUOUS TYPE	228

## Illustrations

49. EMOTIONAL SENSITIVITY	<i>facing page</i> 230
50. A HEART CASE	232
51. INTESTINAL ULCERATION	234
52. A DRUG TAKER	236
53. AN EXTRAORDINARY TYPE	238
54. SUPERSTITION	243
55. THE HAND OF A CHILD	245
56. AN ACTRESS OF THE FUTURE	247
57. UNDESIRABLE TRAITS	249
58. A BUSINESS MAN OF THE FUTURE	250
59. THE RIGHT HAND OF THE LATE SIR EDWARD MARSHALL-HALL, K.C.	254
60. THE RIGHT HAND OF THE LATE EARL OF BIR- KENHEAD	256
61. THE RIGHT HAND OF THE LATE SIR WILLIAM ORPEN, R.A.	258
62. THE RIGHT HAND OF MISS SYBIL THORNDIKE	260
63. THE RIGHT HAND OF PROFESSOR EINSTEIN	262

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29. INTESTINAL ACIDITY	186
30. A 'NERVY' HEAD LINE	<i>page</i> 187
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32. MALFORMATION CAUSED BY METALLIC AB- SORPTION	<i>page</i> 190
33. MALFORMATION INDICATING ULCERATION	191
34. RHEUMATIC PREDISPOSITION	<i>facing page</i> 192
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## *Chapter I*

# Hand Reading

### The Science known as Palmistry



A curious study is this science of the Hand. Maligned, misunderstood and misused, it has persisted through the ages. The unwholesome activities of unscrupulous charlatans, who prey upon the credulous, have been the means of giving it an evil reputation which, like a woman with a past, it is difficult to live down.

Discoveries are being made so rapidly that it is impossible for the lay mind to keep pace with the growth of knowledge. This partly explains why the statements of scientists are accepted without question, statements that are not only astounding but even terrifying. Old beliefs are destroyed without protest, or their mystery is entirely dispelled by a logical scientific explanation, but this study of the hand is still largely believed to be either a childish pastime or a dark and necromantic art.

You may safely state that light travels at the amazing speed of one hundred and eighty-six thousand miles per second and none will contradict you. But say that the Head line in the human hand betrays the strength and quality of an individual mental ability and you will receive incredulous smiles.

Scientists state that matter on the star Sirius is compressed to two thousand times the density of platinum; which means that a ton of matter could be placed in a match box, and it is accepted. A student of the hand

## Hand Reading

might state that the human hand betrays disease, and at once proof is demanded. This is right and proper, but so very often when proof is produced incredulity still persists. I have often heard people say, 'Hand reading? No, I don't believe in it.'

But then it is not a matter of belief; it is a matter of knowledge and of ascertained fact. You may not 'believe' in X-rays, but they exist.

Any phenomenon that is unexplainable has always been relegated to the supernatural or considered to be the work of a divine and miraculous agency. For centuries the markings of the human hand were considered to be, by the scoffers and the sceptics, creases caused by the actions of opening and closing the hand; and by the more impressionable and superstitious, the mysterious writing of some occult power predicting the unalterable destiny of the individual.

I am always receiving letters saying, 'I have heard of your name as a clever palmist. Have you written any books? If so would you let me know their titles and price as I am *very interested in the occult.*'

My researches, extending over a period of many years, have disproved both theories. These mysterious marks found in the human hand are now scientifically explainable; their explanation involved a careful study of the whole physical mechanism. Our thoughts, speech, actions and emotions all originate in the brain. While we are correct in stating that these are the results of external stimuli and internal reactions, we are probably covering a much wider field than we realize.

All activity is electro-magnetic, whether it be a lover's kiss, an explosion of dynamite, or the falling of a comet. We know that light, heat, sound, wireless waves, ultra-violet rays, etc., are all electro-magnetic.

How far then are we affected, our actions influenced

## The Science known as Palmistry

by the radiations emanating from the far distant planets? As yet we do not know, but it is possible, although the brain is our starting-point, that many of our emotions and urges may not originate within the brain at all. It is widely known that certain forms of insanity become worse, the symptoms of mental trouble become more accentuated, when the moon is in certain phases. We also know that without solar radiation life, in every form, would cease to exist on this planet. But whether the strength of individual will-power, the quality and the texture of our emotions are affected by planetary radiation does not alter the fact that these things are betrayed by the hand. The question of planetary radiation, and its effect on the human being, is merely an hypothesis of interest giving some indication of the vastness of our subject.

We must accept the fact that the brain is the central control station receiving and sending its messages, policing and controlling the vast city of living organisms of which our bodies are composed. From the brain to even the most distant area of the epidermis, as well as to the most deep-seated of the internal organs, there runs an elaborate telegraphic system—the nervous system.

The proximity of any harmful substances—such as fire, to any area produces automatic nerve activity; warning is sent to the brain, instant action is the result of an unconscious order to withdraw the limb from danger; and so rapid is this automatic activity that the pain is often only felt as the limb is being withdrawn from danger.

The invasion of the body by hostile bacteria is dealt with by the policemen of the body, the white corpuscles of the blood. At times the invaders are too strong, they repel the defensive corpuscular activity and begin to



## Hand Reading

raid and wreck, disorganizing the vital business of the living city. A message for help is automatically dispatched and the munition factories of the body, the ductless glands, begin to work at high pressure, pouring out their little-known chemical substances, which we call anti-bodies, to check the ravages of the invaders. Scientific investigation and research having discovered these obscure processes, Man is trying to protect himself still further by copying Nature's methods and he has invented vaccines.

You may be wondering how all this can be relevant to the explanation of the markings in the human hand called Head lines, Life lines, etc.; but, as you will realize later, it is all very important.

The skin is composed of three layers, the first is the hard horny outer layer devoid of either nerves or blood-vessels; then comes the mucous layer, and the third is the dermis in which terminate the nerves. In the hand there are millions of nerve endings or 'eyes'; each nerve fibre ends in some part of the brain. Shock or excessive joy, to take extreme examples, cause disturbances of the cerebral cells. This cerebral cellular activity produces a reaction in the nerve fibre ending in that particular portion of the brain affected by the shock, and the nerve 'eye' in the distant hand contracts or expands, causing a minute indentation which betrays the violent emotion. Its position in the hand betrays its type and quality by its correspondence to the area of the brain that has been affected. Each part of the hand has its counterpart, or department, in the brain; thus, the emotions connected with our amorous impulses are shewn in the formation of the Cardiac or Heart lines, while the logical abilities and the degree of will-power are indicated by the formation of the Cerebral or Head line.

☛ When considering disease or its predispositions, there

## The Science known as Palmistry

are many things in the human hand that are vitally important; the formation of the finger nails, the type of the ridge markings, the number and condition of the sweat glands in the skin's ridges. It has been proved that the deficiency of certain chemicals in the body will produce various malformations of nail growth—and chemical deficiency is the fundamental cause of most diseases. Certain toxins will cause an abnormal opening of the sweat glands in the skin's ridges or may even cause minute alterations in the actual formation of those ridges. This does not mean an *alteration of ridge pattern*, so this fact does not lessen the importance or value of the Finger Print system of identification used in connection with crime.

Living, surrounded as we are by hordes of hostile micro-organisms, the body is continually dealing with bacterial infections of which we are entirely unconscious. It is only when the defensive forces of the body begin to realize defeat that the signal of conscious pain is felt to warn us of our danger. Probably owing to the ill-treatment that Nature has received at the hands of our much boasted civilization, these warnings are often sent too late.

Metchnikoff has remarked in his book, *The Nature of Man*, upon this peculiar disharmony. He has said: 'Quite insignificant causes and unimportant illnesses, such as certain forms of neuralgia, give rise to unbearable agony. A physiological phenomenon such as child-birth is often attended by extreme violent pain which is absolutely useless as a danger signal. On the other hand, some of the most dangerous diseases, such as cancer or kidney disease, may exist for a long time without causing any sensation of pain, with the result that the sufferer knows nothing of the presence of the disease until too late.'

## Hand Reading

In my active practice I have found this to be only too true. I have had cases of cancer where the patient has felt no pain, merely felt tired and 'run down' and has remained in ignorance of any serious health weakness. Often these cases have been dosed with tonics and their condition diagnosed as 'general debility' while the true cause has slowly been developing to its fatal climax all unsuspected. But we are not without warning; Nature has not left us entirely unarmed. The markings of the hand will indicate long before any actual indisposition is experienced, that bacterial or malignant disease is active within us. These markings in the hand will also indicate the rate of disease development and the strength of the natural resistance of the body. Therefore it is possible to say if medical aid is necessary or if the natural resistance is alone strong enough to keep any such predispositions in check.

Properly and scientifically applied this study can be of enormous practical value. The time will come when people wishing to insure their lives will be asked to give the insurance company an imprint of their hands. There exist a number of heart conditions, obscure nerve diseases and blood conditions that cannot be clearly diagnosed by the more orthodox methods, but which an examination of the hand would reveal at once.

Why do educational authorities employ complicated psychological tests to determine the mental ability of children. Tests that an obscure nervous sensitivity often renders erroneous through the temporary paralyzation of the child's mental processes. Yet the size, shape and markings of the child's hand will betray, at a glance, its potentialities for good and evil, its predispositions for health and disease. And the health predispositions are vitally important when selecting a career for any child.

## The Science known as Palmistry

The human mind is strangely limited in its understanding, and it requires a long time, often a matter of many years, for a new fact or new angle of knowledge to percolate through the stratas of human society to become common knowledge. Associated, as Hand Reading has been, with fairs, gipsies, church bazaars and old ladies' tea parties, it is summarily dismissed, and thoughtful consideration is denied to its study except by a few of the more progressive and inquiring minds.

We do not deride orthodox medicine even though its early practitioners were blood-letting barbers—the ground frogs and the superstitious moonshine of the early physicians is forgotten. And rightly. Knowledge has grown. The official recognition by medical men of the possibility of making any diagnosis from a mere examination of the hand may be yet many years ahead; but its recognition is inevitable because truth is always invincible.

I dined recently with a doctor friend and he asked me to look at another guest's hand. I was careful to look for any health weakness. I diagnosed acute digestive trouble. The lady remarked on its accuracy, and my friend said, 'Yes, I don't really believe in hand reading, my profession will not let me, but the trouble is Jaquin is always right.' I do not claim to be infallible.

The main object of this study of the hand is *Prevention*—the prevention of the development of latent disease, the prevention of the waste of years of effort and energy by following the career for which the individual is unfitted, and the prevention of tragedy by the early detection of any undesirable emotional traits.

To be able to detect the existence of a predisposition for any particular disease, or the existence of an undesirable, and probably latent, emotional tendency is to be able to give advice that will ensure its elimination or

## Hand Reading

correction; to give a knowledge that may not only save time and money, but suffering and sorrow.

Although hitherto Palmistry has been an art which, to a very considerable extent, was founded on superstitions that had masqueraded as facts, with the elimination of all this superstitious nonsense our study at once attains the dignity and usefulness of a science. Science is after all merely an intelligent observation of fact. And years of careful observation have proved that the hand does betray 'the inmost part of us'.

In common with many other sciences its processes are deductive. So many people have complained that one thing contradicts another. This is only an *apparent contradiction*. I have, in these pages, done my best to explain the usefulness of these apparent contradictions. I have also tried to rid this study of its more flagrant absurdities. It is widely believed that if you have a long unbroken Life line you will live to a ripe old age. Some observant old gentleman once told me that he had looked at the hand of a young man who had been killed in an accident and 'the life line went right round to the wrist. That proves there is nothing in hand reading.' In fact a number of letters, a year or two back, were written to one of the daily papers in the same strain.

A long unbroken Life line does *not indicate a long life*. I have seen the hands of many people who have died prematurely, by accident or disease, and they nearly all possessed good long Life lines.

There are so many people in this world who will criticize, but who do not possess the knowledge necessary to make an intelligent criticism. I like music, but I know nothing about it, therefore I cannot criticize, and any opinions I may have about music are really without value.

I have often heard the friends of clients say: 'If I were

## The Science known as Palmistry

in So-and-so's place I would do so-and-so.' But these people do not know the facts as I have known them, they have failed to realize that there may be another aspect of that particular problem or tragedy.

And you will generally find that whenever a person says of anything, 'There is nothing in that.' It really means that *they* know nothing of the subject.

With the sum total of our present knowledge, we are able to realize, in quiet moments of contemplation, something of the vastness of our ignorance. And it is unwise, to say the least, to dismiss any hypothesis or fact as ridiculous, either on the grounds of its newness or its novelty.

Had there ever lived a man of sufficient genius, during the Middle Ages, to have built even the most primitive form of motor car, undoubtedly he would have paid for his ill-timed display of ability by burning at the stake.

The reward of the pioneer is so often the ridicule of his fellow-men. We are not very much more just to-day. Of recent years men of genius have been deprived of their living and literally hounded to death by the ridicule of their more ignorant brethren.

It is the common practice of most authors writing a book of this type to open with a defence of this study called Cheiromancy. Some even quote Holy Writ in its support. I do not wish to defend Hand Reading; I merely desire to place certain facts clearly before the reader. The facts can defend themselves.

In presenting this book I do not for one moment suppose that I am presenting a volume of *complete* fact. In a subject so vast, embracing as it does so many varied human activities, it is impossible, even in a whole lifetime, to marshal the whole truth. There are still many mental conditions, psychological factors, general emotional conditions and diseases, that require careful

## Hand Reading

palmistic exploration and a critical scientific examination.

For to all other great subjects touching the life of man, and dealing with his varied activities and complex nature, palmistry is no exception. Whatever book is written, when the author lays down his pen, there still remains something more to be said. And as I proceed with my researches, I endorse the sentiment uttered, just before he died, by that great scientist, Sir Isaac Newton: 'I seem to have been only like a boy playing on the seashore and diverting myself in now and then finding a smoother pebble or a prettier shell than ordinary, whilst the great ocean of Truth lay all undiscovered before me.'

## *Chapter II*

### The Shape of the Human Hand



A piece of bone, a shred of flesh or a minute drop of blood has brought more than one murderer to the gallows. Such minute evidence, examined by the medical expert, often determines the outcome of a criminal trial. An eminent anthropologist, like Sir Arthur Keith, would probably deduce from such minute evidence as a fragment of bone the probable date of death, approximate build and sex. This ability of the trained mind seems nothing short of miraculous, but it is no miracle; it is merely an example of Man's ability to apply acquired knowledge in an intelligent deductive manner. For our knowledge of living matter and its structure has now reached that point of certainty when the mind trained in that particular study can recognize certain conditions of fragmentary remains as being consistent with certain conditions of atmosphere, time since death, etc.; but this is a knowledge that has been built up by a painfully slow process of prolonged observation and experimentation. We only discover tiny facts one by one, some are more revolutionary in their effects than others.

And we have learnt to recognize certain structures as being symbolic of certain conditions, or proving the existence of certain forces. We state definitely that wood is solid; a more highly sensitised being would probably see only a semi-gaseous substance. Following this line of thought we must agree that we are only able to distinguish the various psychological or life forces



## The Shape of the Human Hand

by naming the material shapes and structures that they produce. A certain shaped fruit found in the vicinity of oak trees we call an acorn; we know by experiment and observation that it will produce an oak tree and that no other fruit will produce the particular shaped leaf common to the oak. An acorn is, to everyone, symbolic of an oak tree, a large spreading mighty oak; there is one exception—the forestry expert. Not every acorn will mean to his mind a potential oak tree. He has studied these things and he possesses a specialized knowledge; he is able to detect signs of disease and death in an acorn that do not exist to the eye of the ordinary mind. Where we would see an ordinary oak tree, he might see a sick and dying tree. Something in the veining of the leaves, some difference in their colour may be detected by his experienced eye—but we should not see this, we lack the specialized knowledge.

This law operates through all material life. We are only able to recognize and distinguish the unseen forces by the material conformations they unconsciously assume. And as the leaves of the oak betray its strength, so do the hands of men betray their strength—and their weaknesses. But, in common with all other knowledge, before hands can tell us very much we must study them very closely. Man is the most complex thing living. This study of his tell-tale hands is most fascinating and well worth the time and effort necessary for its understanding.

To the expert eye, hands are just as distinctive as faces; they certainly tell much more. We are able to control facial expression, but we cannot control the shape of our hands or the formation of the lines they may bear. Muscular development and nerve activities are dependent on unconscious and complex chemical processes. Recent medical research has discovered that human growth and development, both mental and

## The Shape of the Human Hand

physical, are dependent upon endocrine activity. S. Wyllis Bandler, has stated: 'The difference between animals of various species are due to the ductless glands. The variations between animals of the same species are due to the ductless glands. Race characteristics are produced and perpetuated by the same factors, the difference among individuals of the same race likewise depends upon the endocrine activity; and the resemblances in body, mind or psyche, whether the resemblance is that of normality or abnormality, are due to like or similar relations in the activity of the endocrines.'

The activity of these ductless glands is of utmost importance when considering psychological factors and the general health of the subject—indirectly they bear a very important relationship to vocational careers. And this study of the ductless glands has furnished important proof that the hand is an indicator of health, etc. For example, cold hands with a dry, scaly skin indicate a lack of thyroid secretion.

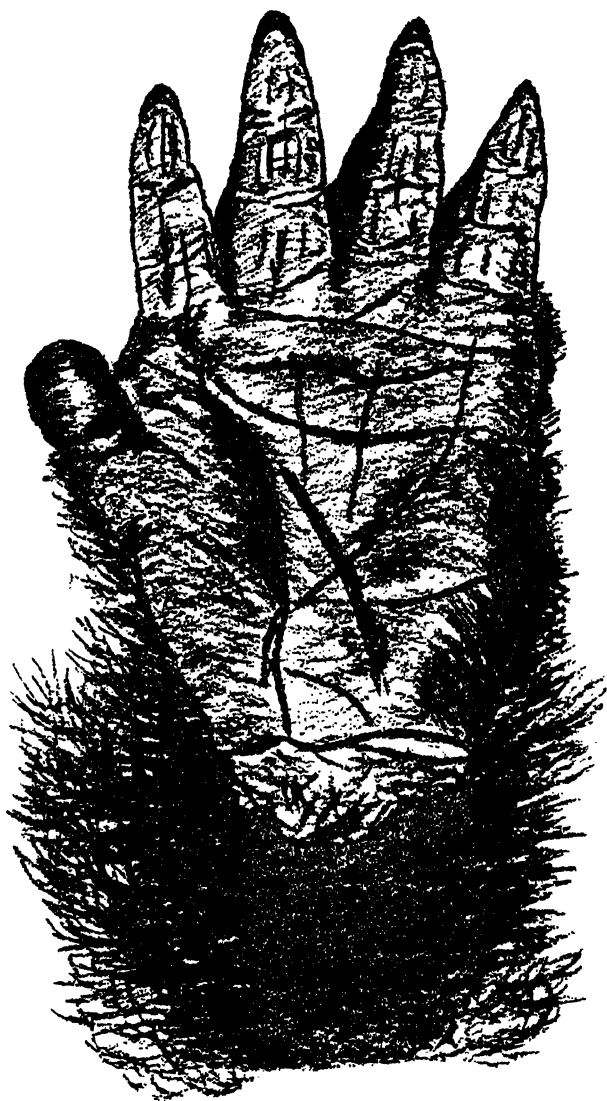
These glands control growth, physiological formations and peculiarities, and they often affect mental processes. Mental attitudes can also affect ductless gland activity, thus the mind may unconsciously determine physiological formations. In considering health conditions it is often important to determine which process is operative. The shape and markings of the hand will enable the expert to determine whether glandular activity is affecting mind or whether mind is unbalancing gland secretion.

It has been observed, and used by people ignorant of the subject as an argument against palmistry, that the hands of the larger anthropoids are shaped and marked in a similar manner to the hand of Man. The hand of the gorilla shows clearly a thumb, fingers, and on the palmar surface the lines of Life, Head and Heart. But

## The Shape of the Human Hand

they overlook the fact that if these are 'read' in the same way, and by the same principles, as the human hand that such a 'reading' will merely discover the soul of the beast. The life impulse of anthropoid origin cannot produce a human mind nor can it therefore produce a human hand. This is merely logic. Having discovered the fundamental principles, if those principles are logically applied there can be no exceptions—any exception proves the principles to be wrong or faulty, if it is proved to be an exception. There are exceptions to all rules but no exceptions to any definite set of laws or principles. We erect an hypothesis that covers all the known facts and we are then entitled to judge that hypothesis to be true, until a fact is discovered that is not covered by that particular hypothesis, when it ceases to be a true hypothesis.

In making a preliminary survey of the hand the texture of the skin is of some importance. The outer skin is merely a hard bloodless layer of stratified epithelial cells united by a cement-like substance. The true skin, just below this horny epidermis is supplied with blood vessels, and over its whole surface are papillæ, some of which cover capillary loops, while others contain touch-corpuscles. Almost the whole of the skin, with the exception of the palms, soles of the feet, and the eyelids, is covered with hairs; the erection of these produces the condition known as 'goose skin'. The functions of the skin are many. It is a protective covering, and the subcutaneous fat forms a soft elastic pad which protects delicate parts from pressure. The epidermis, chorium and fat prevent undue electrical and heat radiation from the body. The epidermis exercises an elastic pressure on the cutaneous capillaries, preventing any excessive diffusion of fluid from the vessels. The skin has definite respiratory functions. The sweat



NO. 1. THE HAND OF THE GORILLA

*Gorilla savagei*, the largest of the anthropoid apes, possesses hands that closely resemble very low types of human hands. This hand, read by the principles of scientific hand reading, will discover the soul of the beast.

## The Shape of the Human Hand

glands excrete water and waste products, being supplementary to the kidney excretion, while they also exercise a great influence on the regulating of bodily temperature. The skin also possesses certain absorbent properties; some drugs can be slowly absorbed through the unbroken skin. The formation of the epidermis is determined by the internal chemistry of the body, which is influenced by endocrine activity and by thought processes, both conscious and unconscious—hence its importance in our study.

The skin texture can be broadly classified as being of two types: fine and coarse. Where the skin is fine, delicate and soft it indicates a certain refinement and the existence of some sensitivity. Should such a skin texture belong to a hand showing, in its palmar markings, signs of a vicious, sensual mind, the subject would only be vicious and sensual in a refined and mental way, he would not be blatantly coarse or vulgar. The fine skin texture indicates a mental type.

Where the skin is coarse, hard and wrinkled, possessing something of a 'leathery' quality, then it betrays the more brutish common type of mind; there is a greater material expression of coarseness vulgar in the sense that these people possess a more animal directness of expressed instinct.

Not only in estimating the quality of the skin's texture, but in every other direction and connection of this study, the student must remember that the secret of palmistic success is in the ability to weigh the evidence, 'for and against', carefully and analytically, before arriving at a definite conclusion. You cannot make mistakes if you merely apply the rules of common deductive reasoning. The secret of success in hand reading is to be very logical and never to 'jump at conclusions'. Disregard all evidence except the evidence

## The Shape of the Human Hand

of the hand; fine clothes, a good carriage and a presentable appearance may be merely deceptive camouflage.

The texture of the skin has nothing to do with the actual consistency of the hand. If the consistency of the hand is hard or very firm it indicates great physical activity; such people are never lazy, they always like to be doing something. Whereas the soft flabby consistency of the hand indicates lack of directive energy. These soft-handed people may be apparently active, but they actually drift idly on the tides of circumstance; they dislike real physical effort, they lack 'directional activity' and they are generally very selfish.

Most palmists divide the shape of the hand and the formation of the fingers into six or seven distinct types. Such a classification is not only misleading, but it tends to confuse the student apart from the fact that such a classification is of no real use. Very rarely, if ever, is there found a subject possessing hands that entirely conform to any one of these types. Man is a complex animal, often a tangled mass of apparent contradictions; the hand, therefore, must betray this complex combination of varying traits.

The actual hand is either broad and short or long and narrow. A broad hand always indicates a more balanced type of mind; these people generally possess breadth of vision and are more understanding than any other type. The broad hand indicates common sense, activity and versatility as the dominant qualities. The long narrow hand belongs more to the 'dreamer'; the person who possesses either a 'one-way mind' or who lacks in practical concentrative ability; they are apt to dabble in many things but to succeed in few. This thin narrow hand indicates a strong selfish trait.

The next point to be considered is the fingers. These are very important, they are the keys to the analytical

## The Shape of the Human Hand

gauging of character. It is quite a mistake to endeavour to judge the fingers as a whole except in the matter of length. Fingers are either long or short. Short fingered people are the 'salt of the Earth'; they are the people who get things done. Short fingers always indicate a quick mind; a mind that is alert, quick to grasp essentials and quick to act. These short fingered people are the organizers of the world, they are able to visualize their plans and ideas, they see them as things complete and finished. Their great fault is that they are very impatient; once these people have decided on any course of action they are impatient of delay. They are generally very impatient of detail, they like to deal with things in a large way and in the execution of their plans they prefer to leave the practical details to others.

On the other hand long fingered people are the more thoughtful. The long finger belongs to the thinkers of the world. You will generally find the long fingered types belong to the mental occupations: accountants, lawyers, analytical chemists, electricians, surgeons are prominent among the long fingered types.

The actual formation of the fingers are vitally important. The most important formation is the waisted type of finger; that is, the joints of the fingers are rather prominent and this causes a 'waisted appearance of the fingers. It does not matter whether the fingers are long or whether they are short, this formation always indicates an analytical tendency of mentality. Therefore, if we apply logical deductive methods, it is easy to see that a person with short fingers that are waisted, while still quick and inclined to be impatient, is analytical—it is the sign of thought. These people, although they may act quickly and think quickly, very seldom do they do anything without a definite reason. Long fingers, whatever their shape and formation, predispose to thought; but

## The Shape of the Human Hand

the waisted formation of the long finger always accentuates the predisposition to thought. Therefore, they are inclined to be slower than if the long finger was smooth. People with long waisted fingers cannot be rushed into things, they will take their time, they must be allowed to 'think things out'. They are slow perhaps, but they are very sure; their fault is in being too calculating.

Some fingers are very smooth, the base is thick and they taper gently to the finger-tips; this smoothness of the finger, particularly if the base of the finger is very thick and fat, indicates a strong intuitive sense. Following the deductive principles already laid down, this formation on a short type of finger accentuates the tendency for quickness; these people are very quick, they are inclined to 'jump at conclusions', the general impatient tendency of the short finger is strengthened. This thick base of the fingers indicates an intuitive faculty; the short smooth fingered people take likes and dislikes to others very quickly; first impressions of both things and people are very vivid and these intuitive assessments influence the more calculating assessments of their minds, they are apt to be intuitively prejudiced.

Where the fingers are long, this thickening of the base of the finger, with a general smoothness, indicates an intuitive sense that tends to quicken the logical processes of the mind. Often these people find themselves becoming very hesitant and uncertain, torn between intuitive and calculative assessments.

There are variations of these two main types of fingers, the smooth and the waisted; fingers can be very smooth and very thick which indicates an excess of the normal indications. Normally a thick base shows intuition rather than thought; in excess it indicates entire lack of thought, marked selfishness and a sensuous ten



## The Shape of the Human Hand

dency. This type of finger is found on the hands of the more brutal types of criminals. In some cases there is little difference between the hand of the criminal and the hand of the gorilla. The fingers of a gorilla are short, squat and very thick with pointed terminations; these fingers betray a lack of thought and the existence of selfish intuitions as the guiding principles of action. Such fingers are brutal and of the beast; the hands of those men whose fingers in any way resemble this animal type are themselves very near to the animal. They are dangerous, vicious and inhuman—and they do exist; but even the lowest type of human hand, the hand of the vilest criminal still possesses characteristics that show some superiority to the gorilla.

Fingers that are very long, thin and with waisted joints are an excess of the thoughtful type, this type of finger indicates a curious and inquisitive type of mind, often very suspicious and too mindful of the affairs of other people.

In the early days Palmistry was used in conjunction with Astrology; this fact explains why astrological names are used to distinguish one part of the hand from another. In this scientific study of hands the astrological significance that at one time was attached to the naming of a finger, mount or line has no value. I am not stating that there is 'nothing in' this study of the stars, merely that it has nothing to do with the hand. Astrology tends to foster the enervating philosophies of the East.

Having made an examination of the length and type of the fingers as a whole, the next step is to make a more detailed examination of the individual fingers.

The first or index finger is known as the finger of Jupiter, and this indicates, by its length, the degree of personal pride and self-esteem that is possessed by the

## The Shape of the Human Hand

subject. Therefore, if this finger is abnormally long, equal in length to the second or Saturn finger, it indicates a domineering, proud and dogmatic type of person. The type of person who loves to rule others and would resist or resent being ruled, particularly by what he, or she, might consider to be their social inferiors.

If however this finger is very much shorter than the second finger; only just reaching to the third joint of the Saturn finger, it indicates a lack of personal pride, a deficiency of self-esteem. Often this type of formation is observed in the hands of people who are *apparently* very proud. The truth is that they fear public opinion, they merely 'keep up appearances' and they would never be too proud to do some shady trick *just so long as they thought they would not be found out*.

The second finger, Saturn, indicates the degree of logical ability, intelligence and reasoning power, the serious mindedness of the subject, and if this finger is squarish and heavy in build it indicates a thoughtful mentality which is almost morbid in its tendency.

The third or Apollo finger indicates the artistic tendency of the individual; often a desire for wealth and honour, a species of vanity. Where the Apollo finger is excessively long, practically as long as the Saturn finger, it indicates the existence of a certain rashness; the subject is apt to view life as a gamble. People possessing this excessive development of the Apollo finger should be warned to guard against the development of any gambling tendencies. If this finger should terminate with a spatulate formation it indicates histrionic abilities.

The little finger is known as the finger of Mercury and indicates the degree of tactfulness and the power of expression. If this finger is very long it indicates some literary ability; the ability of these people to express with fluency their thoughts and ideas either in writing

## The Shape of the Human Hand

or in speech. A deficiency of the Mercury finger indicates a lack of expressive power, a lack of tactfulness. These people are inclined to be too frank and direct in their expressed opinions.

The student must not lose sight of the important fact that this study is deductive and analytical. A hand may possess a very long little finger, indicating the power of expression, but its possessor may not be able to write; the literary indications can be destroyed by any indications, in the actual palm of the hand, of lack of concentration or of a weak and stupid mind. But in such cases these long fingered people would always talk, silly idle chatter.

The terminations of the fingers are of some importance. A spatulate finger-tip always indicates activity and energy and accentuates the ability or indication of that particular finger; it gives a greater force and a certain practical effectiveness.

The square finger-tip indicates a practical and logical type of mind.

The pointed finger-tip has always been considered a sure sign of artistic ability. This is only partly true. Pointed finger-tips indicate an artistic type of mind but one lacking in practical executive ability. These pointed fingers belong to the poetic dreamers of life; the people who always mean to do so much and who generally succeed in doing so little.

The actual phalanges of the fingers can also tell us something. The first phalange indicates by its length the mental qualities of that particular finger.

The second phalange indicates the business aspect.

The third phalange, the base phalange, indicates the more animal aspect, the worldly and the material expressiveness of the qualities indicated by the particular finger.

These are the basic indications of the fingers, and by

## The Shape of the Human Hand

the use of an analytical deductive process the student can 'read' any shape or type of finger. These basic principles can be elaborated so that a very detailed study of character can be worked out merely from the shape of the fingers. And to those of my readers who would like to consider this aspect in even greater detail I recommend *The Law of Scientific Palmistry*, by William G. Benham, whose study of the fingers is exceedingly detailed and very accurate. It is not within the scope of this work to dwell too long on the preliminary phases of hand reading.

The thumb is of vital importance when considering the psychological aspect of our study. It is truly the 'key' of the character as it is expressive of the type and strength of the will, the degree of independence, and its formation betrays to what extent the intelligence is helped or fettered by the will.

There are two definite types of thumb and a third, which is a composite type. The first type of thumb is the straight firm type; that is, the thumb which is straight and firm; its top joint does not bend back away from the hand. The thickness and length of the top joint indicates the degree of will-power and determination. The second joint of the thumb, which in the human hand is generally slightly waisted, indicates the degree of intelligence and reason, by its length.

Therefore, if the top joint should be over-developed, indicating too great an obstinacy, it dwarfs and overshadows this second joint making it short and giving a squat appearance to the whole thumb. This has led to the 'clubbed' type of thumb being called the murderer's thumb; it does not, of course, indicate a murderer it merely shows a dangerous obstinacy. Although it is true that these people might do anything in anger. Often opposition rouses a determination in these people

## The Shape of the Human Hand

that renders them blind to reason; they are very difficult people to 'get on with' and, under some circumstances, liable to be very dangerous.

If the top joint of the thumb is firm, straight and nicely shaped it indicates determination, but a determination that is devoid of obstinacy. These people are capable of being very determined, but they are always open to reason. Particularly is this true when the second joint of the thumb shows a slightly waisted appearance, which indicates intelligence and reason.

Often the second joint shows a marked waisted appearance but has a very small and thin top joint; this shows intelligence but a lack of actual will-power. These people are too easily influenced by apparent logical argument.

The second type of thumb is the supple or backward bending thumb. The supple type of thumb, where the top joint bends back in an arched formation away from the hand, indicates impulsiveness. If the top joint is also thin it indicates an entire lack of stable will-power. It has already been stated that thin pointed fingers, long and smooth, indicate the dreamer; so, if such a hand possesses also a thumb that is of a definitely supple type it indicates a person who is capricious and entirely at the mercy of emotional impulses. This combination of thin, smooth and pointed fingers with the supple thumb definitely indicates a lack of directional will-power or emotional control. Many people have come to me complaining of their 'bad luck', of the instability of their lives; of the sudden changes and the general uncertainty of everything, and invariably I have found that their hands bear the thin, weak supple type of thumb. The impetuous, emotional tendency has destroyed stability and this has been reflected in the material aspect of their lives. The fault has been within

## The Shape of the Human Hand

themselves rather than in the actual circumstances of their lives.

The third type of thumb is a composite type; it is a combination of the two other types, the firm and the supple. In this composite type the top joint is rather thick, indicating will-power and the ability to be determined, but it also bends back slightly away from the hand, a variety of the supple type. These people can be very determined and also very impulsive; they are apt to be very awkward at times as they are liable to be 'impulsively determined'; this may seem to be paradoxical, but it very aptly describes the psychological combination responsible for the production of this type of thumb.

It is a definite rule that lack of thumb development indicates lack of will-power and any abnormal physiological formation indicates abnormal psychological combinations or lack of psychological 'balance'. Will-power is the helm of the ship, and unless the thumb is properly developed the subject is unable to steer a course through Life, and must drift idly on the sea of circumstance. If the thumb is overdeveloped then there is danger through the unresisting opposition to obstacles.

Some time ago a client placed a problem before me; the solution was an easy one; he could either make a law case of his difficulty or make an apology. He possessed an enormous thumb, the top joint was very thick and heavy while the first finger was abnormally long, indicating pride and a dogmatic tendency, this coupled with the indications of obstinacy shewn in the formation of the thumb made me very doubtful of the value of my advice. I knew he would take his own course. I very tactfully suggested an apology, he fairly bristled with indignation at the suggestion. I warned him of the danger of his ridiculous firmness but, as I knew, it made no

## The Shape of the Human Hand

difference. He invoked the aid of the law and lost more money than he could afford, as well as his case. That degree of will-power brought unnecessary difficulties and anxieties into his life. He will probably blame 'Fate'.

The indications of the thumb must always be borne in mind when actually considering the lines of the hand in relation to the psychological make-up of an individual; as for example, a heavy determined thumb will hold in check and nullify, to a great extent, any indications of impulsiveness shewn in the actual palmar surface of the hand. An impulsive or supple thumb will accentuate the indications of impulsiveness shewn in the actual palm.



No. 2. AN APEX

The above diagram illustrates the central point or apex of the Mounts, which are found at the base of the fingers.

There are important muscular developments on the palmar surface of the hand at the base of the fingers that bear an important relation to the indications of the fingers. These muscular pads are called Mounts. The student must be very careful to observe their correct positions, which should be directly beneath each finger. These mounts each bear a design similar in type to the finger-tips and it is only possible to observe their exact

## The Shape of the Human Hand

position by noting the position of the apex. The apex being the core or centre of the ridge pattern. The fingertips all bear apexes; all the skins' ridges running in a definite pattern to a central point, which may be of a circular formation or triangular, and the mounts of the hand bear the same type of marking. Therefore, if any of these apexes on the mounts of the hand are misplaced it indicates that the influence of the misplaced mount is weakened or overshadowed, by the indications of the mount to which the misplacement is drawn.

For example, it is quite common to find that the Mount of Saturn very strongly developed but with the Mount of Apollo slightly out of position towards Saturn. This indicates that the serious tendency of the subject's mind overshadows and depresses the brighter and more optimistic instincts and tendencies indicated by a well-developed Mount of Apollo. An equally common formation is found when both the Mounts of Saturn and Apollo are in their correct positions, but with a third apex or mount developed between them. This indicates an equal development of the psychological factors responsible for the developments of both the mounts; and betrays the tendency for the subject to alternate very rapidly between the two, between the grave and the gay. These mounts are either strongly developed; that is, there is a developed fleshy pad or they are weak; their weakness is indicated by their flatness or depression causing a slight hollowing of the muscular tissue instead of the pad formation.

The Mount of Jupiter is to be found beneath the first finger and when it is well developed it indicates pride and ambition, a desire to hold a position of authority. If the first finger is very long, nearly equal in length to the second, the indications of the Joviterian mount are accentuated and this produces vanity and a



## The Shape of the Human Hand

tendency to be overbearing. These Jupiterian people generally possess very definite religious beliefs which they would defend with vigour in the face of formidable opposition.

Following the deductive method of Hand Reading it is easy to see that a heavy obstinate type of thumb, a well-developed first finger with a well-formed Mount of Jupiter would produce the fanatic and the martyr.

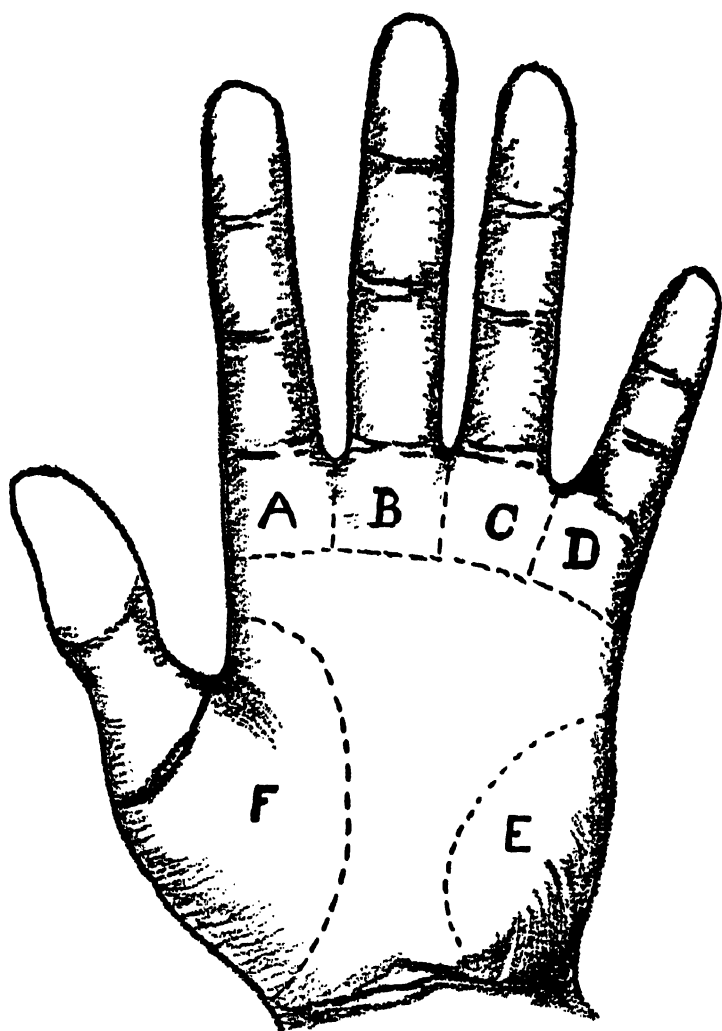
This Mount of Jupiter should be watched carefully when observing the formation of the Heart line in relation to an analysis of the sex emotions. A strongly developed mount tends to accentuate the sex tendencies; the individual would be more persistent in the gratification of his desires than he would be if the mount were flat or depressed. In the case of the mount being weak the individual would be more susceptible to the influence of others, there would exist a lack of self-esteem which would predispose to a weakness of character.

The Mount of Saturn is found beneath the second finger, and in its normal development indicates a thoughtful mind. If this mount is abnormally developed it indicates a morbid tendency with marked suspicion.

Where the Saturn finger is waisted in its formation the thoughtful trend of the mind is accentuated to produce a critical and analytical type of mentality; such people dislike mystery and they are born to mistrust their fellows, philosophical beliefs and religious teachings; these people are materialistic, they demand material proof.

This Mount of Saturn has been called the Miserly Mount; when it dominates, as the strongest mount, it is a sure indication of thrift which often amounts to a miserly instinct.

In considering cases of mental trouble this mount is



No. 3. THE MOUNTS

- A. The Mount of Jupiter
- B. The Mount of Saturn
- C. The Mount of Apollo
- D. The Mount of Mercury
- E. The Mount of Luna
- F. The Mount of Venus

## The Shape of the Human Hand

very important, as its overdevelopment, with a weak Headline, predisposes to a suicidal tendency. Saturnians are suspicious, unsympathetic and melancholy people.

Beneath the third finger is found the Mount of Apollo and this is in complete opposition to Saturn. This mount indicates a love of Life and laughter, an appreciation of Art in all its forms. The student must not fall into the error of assuming that a well-developed Mount of Apollo and its corresponding finger indicates the artist; often Apollonians are entirely devoid of any creative ability—it indicates, at the most, an appreciative artistic faculty.

This mount also indicates the quick, intuitive type of mentality, and if the Mount of Apollo is very strongly developed in a hand where the thumb is supple, indicating impulsiveness, this combination betrays a lack of concentration. These people are impulsive to the point of rashness. If the third finger is excessively long there is grave danger that they will gamble; they certainly will view Life itself as a gamble and they would take risks that the Saturnian would never dream of taking.

This Apollonian Mount strongly developed in a man's hand indicates the existence of a feminine intuition. The Apollo Mount is always well marked in the hands of well-dressed men. It indicates, in a man's hand, an instinctive understanding of the emotional reactions of women, but it does not indicate that such a man would be either vicious or dissolute, often he is not even sensual. These more evil tendencies only exist when the Apollo finger is crooked with the Heart and Head lines weak, then the sexual instincts are likely to be perverted.

Normally this Mount of Apollo is the mount that brings light and optimism into the life; it is the antidote to the seriousness of Saturn.

## The Shape of the Human Hand

The Mount of Mercury is placed beneath the little finger and its developed form indicates quickness and mental activity; with a long little finger it indicates shrewdness and a ready wit, the ability to be extremely tactful; seemingly to agree with people whose opinions are in opposition to those personal opinions held by the subject.

Mercurians are generally very keen judges of human character and with the Mount of Apollo moderately developed, this gives intuition, Mercurians make excellent diagnosticians.

A very highly developed Mount of Mercury indicates an active and keen brain; these people are able to assimilate knowledge almost intuitively. Where the little finger is very crooked a criminal twist is given to the indications of the mount; such formations are to be found on the hands of sneak thieves, sellers of bogus shares, commercial Don Juans and other deceitful and criminal types. If all the fingers are crooked with a highly developed Mount of Mercury it is an indication of a definite criminal type of mind.

Where the fingers and thumbs of the hands are heavy and coarse, the Mercury finger crooked with its mount highly developed it indicates a more dangerous and brutal criminal type of mind. If the little finger is long then the expressed deceit of the highly developed mount would be of a more thoughtful diplomatic type; with a short little finger there is more physical activity, more thoughtless impetuosity of action is indicated.

The Mount of Luna is placed at the base of the hand at its outer edge opposite to base of the thumb, this mount indicates by its development the degree of imagination and creative ability that is possessed by the subject. A strongly developed Mount of Luna gives an outward curving to the outer edge of the hand. This is

## The Shape of the Human Hand

the creative curve found on the hands of all true artists and all creative workers.

Where this mount is flat and undeveloped, and the outer edge of the hand is straight, it indicates a lack of creative ability although the subject may be, by possessing a well-developed Mount of Apollo, very artistic, but artistic in an appreciative way only.

This particular mount is of major importance when dealing with the indications of the actual Head or Mental line, in the palm of the hand. It is also very significant that many of the conditions of ill-health causing mental aberrations, particularly in women, are found to be marked on this Mount of Luna; these will be considered in the health section.

The Mount of Venus is at the base of the thumb and is encircled by the Life line, this mount indicates by its development the degree of warm-heartedness and the strength of the vital animal forces of the body. Where this mount is flat and has the appearance of being restricted by the Line of Life it indicates a nature that is cold and unresponsive, inclined to be rather selfish.

Where this mount is very large, with the Line of Life sweeping out well into the palmar surface to encircle the mount, it is a sure indication of a generous, warm-hearted, rather emotional personality with strong amorous instincts.

If there are many criss-cross lines on this mount forming a grilled pattern it indicates that the subject is very strongly attracted by the opposite sex.

Where the mount is hard as well as flat, restricted by a Line of Life that merely slants to the wrist, it indicates that the normal sexual instincts have withered and have produced a mind that is bitter and given to acidulous criticism; such a formation is typical of the hand of the shrewish fanatical old maid.

## *Chapter III*

# The Markings of the Human Hand

## How to Make Imprints



**T**he system of identification by means of finger prints was officially adopted in England in July, 1901, on the recommendation of the Committee appointed by the Secretary of State in 1900, to consider and report on the best means of identifying habitual criminals. But it has been recognized for ages that the design made by the skin's ridges on the finger-tips offer definite proofs of identification; this is by no means new knowledge, as it was known to the Chinese thousands of years ago, and was used by them.

We accept the design, with the fact of its eternal variation, without question; but as everything has a cause it must have an explanation; it is therefore of some interest to speculate on the probable cause of this endless variation of ridge design.

If a violin bow is drawn across the edge of a sheet of plate glass on which has been sprinkled some Fuller's Earth, the vibrations of the resulting note cause the particles of earth to form a definite geometrical design, and this particular design can be endlessly reproduced only so long as that exact vibratory rate is produced. Each note has its own design and the most minute variations will result in the alteration of the design by minute alterations of tone.

It is being proved, by recent scientific research, that each individual is living on a separate 'wave length',

## The Markings of the Human Hand

which, so far as we know, is never exactly repeated, and we are being lead, by discovered fact, towards the hypothesis that the Life force of the body is received from outer space and is due to, at the moment, little understood cosmic radiation. These radiations are evidently electrical in character and the human being resembles in practical effect a wireless station, the brain being the receiving set. It is, therefore, logical to assume that these designs found on the finger tips are the results of some little-known electrical force expressive of the particular cosmic wave length, or combination of wave lengths, upon which we, as individuals, live.

It has never yet happened that two people have been found to possess designs on the *ten* digital extremities entirely alike, but reducing the comparison to one digital impression it then becomes probable that *one* particular design could be found exactly reproduced on five or six other single digital extremities in Europe. This does not actually decrease the efficiency of the finger-print system of identification; the chances of a criminal finger print left at the scene of a crime being responsible for the conviction of an innocent individual is extremely remote.

These finger prints can be divided into five types; there is the arched type, that is the apex is formed as an arch like a hillock. The tented type is a straight looped type of apex, the centre loop being perpendicular; there is the whorl type, the loop type and the composite type. Following the logical dictum that everything has a cause and therefore a meaning—what do these designs signify? Surely they can be of greater use than for the identification of criminals only? Why do some finger tips bear *all* the one type of design while others bear mixed types? Have these designs some emotional significance? Does the arched type indicate emotional



#### No. 4. TYPES OF FINGER PRINTS

There are five types of ridge patterns found on the finger-tips. These are illustrated above.



## The Markings of the Human Hand

repression? Does the persistence of the whorl type, very common in certain types of criminal hands, *indicate some defect in the moral perceptions? I draw the attention of the student to these finger prints, as there is need for some careful research in this connexion.*

Although the actual lines of the hand are subject to variation and change—lines grow and lines fade—the ridge pattern of the finger-tips never alters from the day of birth to the day of death and this ridge pattern extends over the whole hand. The ridge pattern, in the actual palmar surface, is subject to some variation of a very minute character, these being mostly caused by chemical changes in the body produced by bacterial or glandular activities, but even these changes do not alter the actual design of the ridge pattern. While we are not concerned with criminal identification in this study these ridge patterns are important in their psychological aspect and relationship. The hand can be of invaluable aid to the criminal investigator, and it would be just as easy to take imprints of the whole hand of the criminal while merely taking the finger prints; not only would this give a greater amount of data for identification purposes but would enable a more exact classification of the criminal types to be made, as well as supplying important psychological data.

The coiner, for example, possesses a mentality that is very different from that of the gangster, while the mind of the professional bigamist is different from either. Therefore it is quite logical to assume that these three types of minds, so widely different in their fundamental processes, must produce three definite types of hands.

The time will come, it may take many years to materialize, when imprints of prisoners' hands will be considered as important evidence in a court of law. The

## How to make Imprints

imprint of a murderer's hand would furnish vital evidence, for or against the prisoner. Often the whole result of a trial for murder depends not upon the question of actual guilt—that is, guilt in the sense of proving that a death was caused by the action of the accused—but upon the more vital question of personal responsibility: to what extent and degree the accused was conscious of criminal action. Imprints of the hands would furnish the expert with sufficient data to enable the *actual degree of insanity* to be definitely established. These imprints would reveal the type of abnormality that existed, and would make it quite clear to what extent the accused would be responsible for his actions under the circumstances in which the crime may have been committed.

It must be borne in mind that we are all potential criminals, but the circumstances necessary to make us criminals are widely varied. There are however a number of people born every year whose moral perceptions are definitely defective, often these are due to obscure nerve or mental conditions, but they predispose to crime; and such a person found committing a crime is imprisoned. So the penalty of ill-health is sometimes penal servitude.

Some years ago a young boy was brought to me by his father; the lad was unable to concentrate, he never bothered about school and was always getting into trouble of various kinds. The imprints of his hands revealed a peculiar abnormality of mentality, a diseased condition of the mind that would produce ultimately a homicidal tendency. I was quite certain that this condition could not only be checked but cured, and I suggested accordingly that a certain mental specialist should be consulted. This suggestion did not meet with the father's approval, so this young man may one day stand in the dock facing a charge of murder.

## The Markings of the Human Hand

In 1924, I first met the late Sir Edward Marshall-Hall, K.C., when he very kindly allowed me to take imprints of his hands. In due course I sent him my report on these, and I received a letter of thanks in which he said, 'I am very much impressed by your reading of my hand. I think it is very strong confirmation of the belief that I have always held in the value of Cheiromancy if scientifically applied.'

Later I had the opportunity of discussing the possibilities of Hand Reading with Sir Edward, and he agreed with me that this study, if properly applied, could be of great value to both Medicine and Law. I well remember his kindly smile as he said, 'You are a very ambitious young man and from what you have told me you are working on the right lines—but our profession is very conservative and you will find the doctors just as bad.'

Before this study could ever hope to rank as a proper science, or even be taken seriously, it was necessary to eliminate all of those numerous superstitions that have for so long been connected with the study. Even after this has been done it will take quite a considerable time to kill the widespread idea of some mysterious and occult power being the fundamental cause of the markings found in the human hand. The majority of human beings are very much impressed by anything that they do not understand.

There is only one exact way of reading a hand—by taking an imprint. The imprint method of hand reading is the only method whereby an exact diagnosis of health conditions can be made; many of the indications of ill-health being so minute that they are invisible to the naked eye in the actual hand. Also, the imprints furnish a permanent record, valuable for reference and contemplative study; it is possible to take a series of

## How to make Imprints

imprints of the same hands at regular periods, extending over a number of years, and a careful comparison of the series will show minute alterations that are vitally important. In my own practice I very rarely 'read' the actual hand, I take imprints which are carefully filed, together with the notes of the case. These files of imprints have proved to be invaluable in my researches.

There are two methods of making imprints. The first is by using smoked paper. A sheet of ordinary white paper is smoked over an ordinary candle flame ; the paper must be just touching the flame and must be kept in constant motion; it soon collects a deposit of carbon particles. You must move the paper so as to get an even deposit of carbon: and do not make it too thick and black. When the hand is pressed firmly on this carbon surface it leaves a very fine and clear impression. With these 'smoked' imprints it is necessary to 'fix' them, as they smudge of course at the least touch. This 'fixing' can be done by making a mixture of Methylated Spirit and Spirit Gum (the gum used for fixing on hair in theatrical make-up); use one ounce of gum to four of Methylated Spirit. Pour a small quantity of this mixture on the corner of the paper bearing the imprint and allow it to run over the whole surface. When dry the imprint is fixed and can be filed in the ordinary way.

The most perfect method of taking imprints is by using Finger Print Ink; this is a special ink made by Messrs. Reeve's, the Artists' Colourmen, the price is sixpence per tube and one tube will last a very long time.

The apparatus required for making these imprints is a small photographic roller; this can be obtained from any chemist—the type of rubber roller used for rolling photographic prints on glass for the purpose of glazing them; a small square of glass—if possible, plate glass.

## The Markings of the Human Hand

A small quantity of Finger Print Ink is squeezed out on the glass; this is then rolled out very thinly. Take the hand to be imprinted and see that it is free from moisture or dust, press the hand first on a clean sheet of blotting paper or wipe with benzoline or some other spirit to remove all traces of perspiration. Then run the inked roller from the wrist up to the fingertips, roller across the hand again to include the thumb. When the palmar surface, thumb and fingers are all evenly inked press the hand firmly on white paper; some pressure must be exerted across the back of the hand, across the knuckles, particularly when the palmar surface is hollow. The resulting impression should be a photographic reproduction of the lines, ridges, sweat glands and contours of the hand, complete in every detail. If the hand should be very hollow in the palmar surface then *place the paper on the hand*, pressing the paper into the palm; another imprint can be made in the ordinary way to get the fingers, thumb and general contours.

A very important factor in obtaining clear impressions is the paper. If you use a rough textured paper the minute details of the imprint becomes blurred. You must use a paper with a perfectly flat surface.

I have experimented with many makes of paper and the best for our purpose I find is an art paper. The ideal paper, the one that I use in my practice, is manufactured by Messrs. Samuel Jones & Co., Ltd., of Bridewell Place, London. This is called 'Bridewell Matt Art' and has a fine white surface devoid of any water-mark—a very important point—as if you want to take any micro-photographs of any imprint the water-mark might show or interfere with the picture.

I found it necessary, when preparing an article on the hand for *Pearson's Magazine*, to have micro-photo-

## How to make Imprints

graphs taken. It was essential that these photographs, being for illustration purposes, should be exceedingly clear. To get the best results the lighting had to be behind the paper, so I had to make the paper bearing the imprints semi-transparent by carefully oiling it. My photographer told me that had the paper borne a water-mark the lighting might have been uneven.

In any case I advise the serious student to oil all imprints once they have dried, and when they are oiled they should be placed between blotting paper to absorb superfluous particles of oil before being filed. When making a detailed diagnosis the value of this semi-transparent condition of the imprint will be proved; by holding the imprint against a fairly strong light it is then easy to see minute alterations in ridge formation and to ascertain the exact condition of the sweat glands—two very important points in some diseased conditions.

The student must bear in mind that there is a difference between the imprints taken by the 'smoked' paper method and those taken with Finger Print Ink. In the 'smoked' paper impressions the white lines are the ridges of the skin, while in the inked imprints the ridges come out black, the furrows and sweat glands remaining white. I advise all students of this subject to acquire a collection of imprints, start with the hands of your friends, make notes of their lives, dispositions and their health so far as you know them. Gradually extend your activities and take imprints of hands whenever you can, and of all kinds and conditions of people. Keep careful records of ages, etc.; let your system of filing be as simple as possible, but it must be effective.

Having made these preliminary remarks let us consider the markings of this Chart of Life—the human hand. The line of first importance is the Life Line;

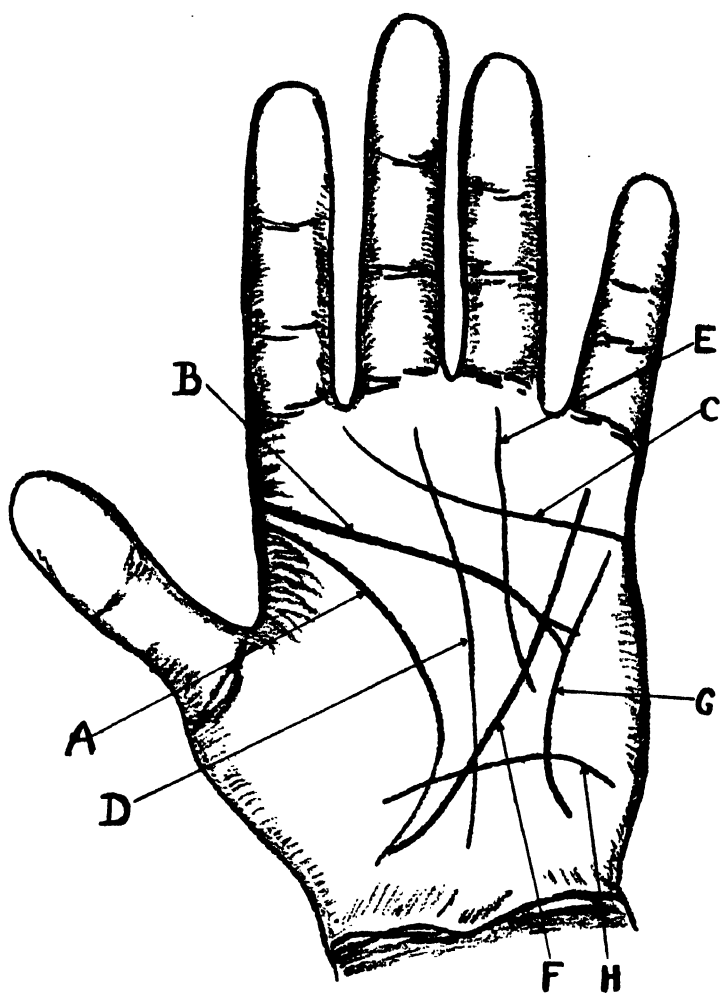
## The Markings of the Human Hand

this runs from between the thumb and first finger round the base of the thumb towards the wrist and encircles the Mount of Venus. This line has little or no importance when considering the psychological aspect, but it has some significance when estimating the strength of the vital force of the body. Its main value is in connection with the health aspect.

The Head or Mental Line, begins between the thumb and first finger, generally just above the Life line, often it is actually joined to the Life line at its commencement, and it runs out across the palmar surface towards the outer edge of the hand, but it very rarely ever actually touches this outer edge of the hand. This Mental line is one of the most important in the whole hand; it indicates the strength and type of the mental processes and also betrays the degree of intelligent control that the individual has over the emotional impulses and urges.

The Heart or Cardiac line, which may commence between the first and second fingers, or actually on the Mount of Jupiter below the first finger, runs to the edge of the hand beneath the little finger. A Heart line can also be marked as a short straight line beginning beneath the Mount of Saturn. The ancient systems of Hand Reading considered that this line indicated the number and type of love affairs—it merely indicates, in its psychological aspect, the strength and type of the sex urges. The indications of this line are almost as important as the indications of the Head line. It is very important in the physiological sense, as it indicates the condition of the heart and betrays any weakness of sight.

Above the Heart line there are often found two or three broken lines either in a semi-circular formation or running straight across the mounts parallel with the Heart line itself. This formation is known as the Girdle



# No. 5. THE LINES OF THE HAND

- A. The Life Line.
- B. The Head or Mental Line.
- C. The Heart or Cardiac Line.
- D. The Fate Line.
- E. The Apollo Line.
- F. The Health Line.
- G. The Line of Intuition.
- H. The Via Lasciva.



## The Markings of the Human Hand

of Venus. It has been frequently stated that this formation indicates a vicious and immoral trend of thought and action. My researches have proved this to be wrong, it has proved to indicate the degree of emotional sensitivity and must be considered for its correct meaning in conjunction with the Heart and Head lines.

The 'Fate' line is found running up the centre of the palmar surface, from the wrist to the base of the second finger, it may even end on the mounts of Jupiter or Apollo. This line is supposed to indicate the events and trend of the life, but its formations will be discussed later.

The Line of Apollo is the line running parallel with the 'Fate' line; this line may commence either on the mount of Luna by the wrist or it may not show until late—just above the Heart line.

The Line of Health is very rarely clearly marked. It generally presents a very broken appearance, being 'made-up' of a number of very fine lines which begin on the Mount of Mercury, beneath the little finger, and run down towards the Life line, where it cuts or crosses the Life line near the wrist. This line is subject to great variation, it is the gauge indicating the rise and fall of the vital forces of the body.

The Line of Intuition is quite a common marking, and when clearly marked is seen as a semi-circular line running from the Mount of Mercury down to the Mount of Luna. This line indicates the existence of a high degree of intuition amounting to a clairvoyant faculty.

There is often found a broken semi-circular formation which begins on the Mount of Luna and runs over towards, and may even cross, the Life line. This is known as the *Via Lasciva* and indicates a strong tendency towards sensuality and a craving for excitement.

## How to make Imprints

When it is found on the left hand only it merely indicates an inherited predisposition; the subject's forbears evidently possessed a strong love of Life, women and wine—which they probably indulged.

These are the markings which furnish the data upon which we are to base our psychological deductions, and the student must bear in mind the very important fact, which is the whole secret of the successful analysis of human character, that the strength of the varying indications must be weighed one against the other. Every hand is full of contradictions—or apparent contradictions; and what you have to do is to find the *point of balance, the deficiency or super-abundance of any one psychological factor.*

This may seem to be rather a formidable task to the novice, but it is easier than one would think. This subject, admittedly, is complex, because human nature is complex, but therein is the secret of its fascination. With practice and some concentration no great difficulty should be experienced in quickly learning to make a general and satisfactory analysis of character from the lines of the hand.

How quickly you are able to become really expert depends on your own efforts and the amount of practice you are able to obtain. Start taking imprints at the beginning of your studies and keep on taking imprints; this subject, touching as it does every aspect of human activity, is inexhaustible and there will always be something else to learn, some new fact to be discovered.

## *Chapter IV*

### The Life and Mental Lines

**T**hese two lines, known as the lines of Life and Head, are the lines that supply the 'key' to the rest. It is quite impossible in any work on the hand to give actual illustrations of every variety of formation that you may find in a human hand; the variety of formations is practically endless, but if the student memorizes certain fundamental principles and then merely applies a logical deductive process there is no hand that cannot be read with ease; there is no psychological complexity that cannot be unravelled.

The Life line is important in its psychological aspect only in so far as it betrays the degree of vital force in the body. You will have observed that this line encircles the Mount of Venus, and often, where this mount is flat, the Life line comes down from between the thumb and first finger towards the wrist in almost a straight line. This makes the actual Mount of Venus narrow and thin in appearance. This formation indicates a cold, unresponsive nature; there is a lack of natural human warmth, and although these people may be sensuous their real love nature is 'cold'. Often this formation is consistent with faulty endocrine activity and I advise the student to examine the health aspect of such a hand very carefully.

If, however, the mount is high and well developed so that the Life line sweeps out in a wide curve down to the wrist, giving the actual mount the appearance of width, it indicates a person in whom the vital forces are

## The Life and Mental Lines

very strong and active. These people are warm-hearted, sympathetic and emotionally responsive. Particularly if the actual line is clear and strong, devoid of any small islands or breaks.

If the Life line is very wide and deep, with this well-developed mount, then it indicates a tendency for the more animalish instincts to predominate. This type of formation is generally found on the more primitive type of hands, with the short thick fingers and the heavy squat thumb.

Very often you will find a number of very fine lines, particularly towards the beginning of the line, rising from the main line in an upward direction, but ending before they reach any of the other main lines, such as the Heart or the Head lines. These fine upright lines rising from the Life line indicate a tendency for those subjects to waste their energies ; they spread their attentions over a wide area and they often have too many irons in the fire at once. These people are very enthusiastic, but they tire quickly; they start many things but finish few; it is a sign of some lack of concentration and a restless disposition.

Where these 'hair' lines leave the Life line *but fall in a downward direction*, it is an indication that at this point the vital forces of the body are beginning to fail; the cause may be a diseased condition, general and natural decay of the body due to age or some form of excess, but whatever the cause may be, it will be indicated in some other portion of the palm.

It is believed by many people that where a Life line breaks it indicates death. The student must be very careful with regard to such marks—a line may *apparently* break or the broken ends may overlap. Where there is a complete and clean break in the Life line in *both* hands it does then indicate danger of death from

## The Life and Mental Lines

serious illness—but it does not indicate a definite and irrevocable dissolution. So very often where such a formation is shewn there are indications in some other portion of the hand of the existence of a developing diseased condition, which, by its early detection and proper medical attention, can be checked if not actually completely eliminated. In such cases, after medical treatment, the break will disappear.

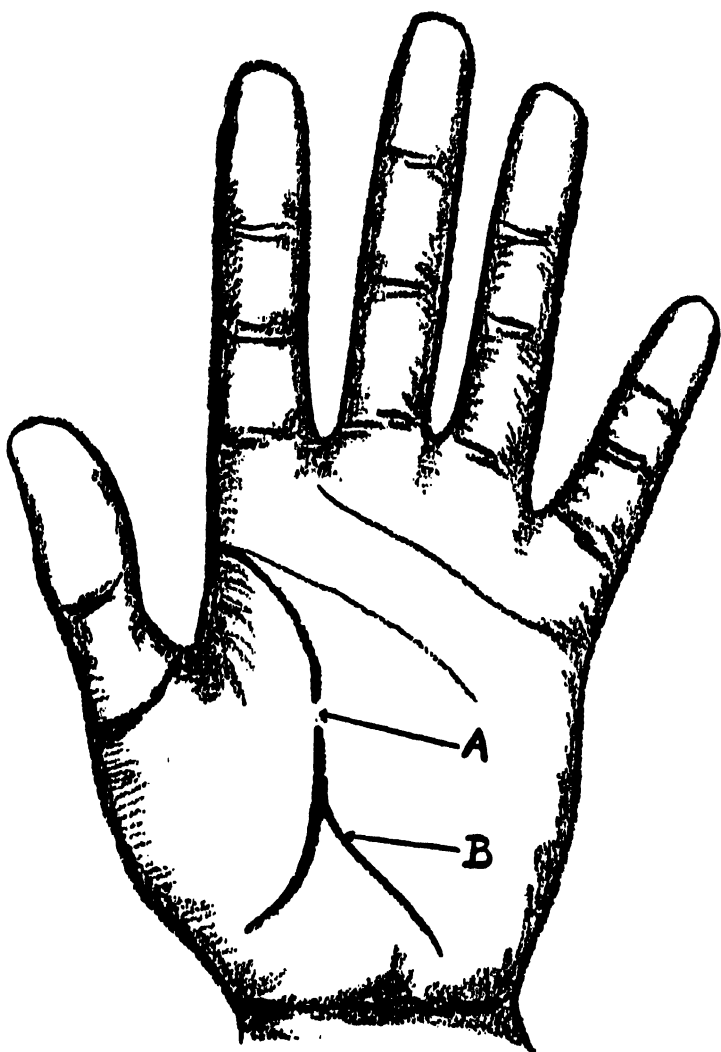
I have seen thousands of Life lines that have shewn a clear break in one hand, or have been broken in both but with the ends overlapping—the amateur palmist would be in danger of making a grievous error.

Often a Life line runs clearly in an unbroken line right round the base of the thumb on to the wrist, giving an apparent length of life up to a hundred years of age, and yet the subject may die at twenty years of age. Death is often indicated in other parts of the hand, particularly where Heart disease, Bright's disease, Cancer or accident is the cause.

In the case of the late Sir Henry Seagrave the Life line in both hands was clear and unbroken, giving a good expectation of life, yet he died tragically in his thirty-fourth year on Lake Windermere.

In the case of the late Sir Edward Marshall-Hall, K.C., the first imprint that I took of his hands showed the *beginnings* of a break in the Life line. Twelve months later another imprint was taken and this line showed a *definite break*; the vital forces of the body were beginning to fail. So active, and so constant in that activity, he was using his vital force at a greater rate than the recuperative power could replenish the depletion. I warned Sir Edward of his danger and advised a rest. Twelve months later the world was poorer by the loss of its greatest criminal advocate.

The student must be very, very careful and use great



#### No. 6. DANGER AND TRAVEL

A clear break, as marked A in the above illustration, when found in both hands, indicates grave danger of serious illness. A line branching from the main line over towards the Mount of Luna as marked B, is supposed to indicate travel. Scientifically this line only indicates a restless disposition and a desire for travel.

## The Life and Mental Lines

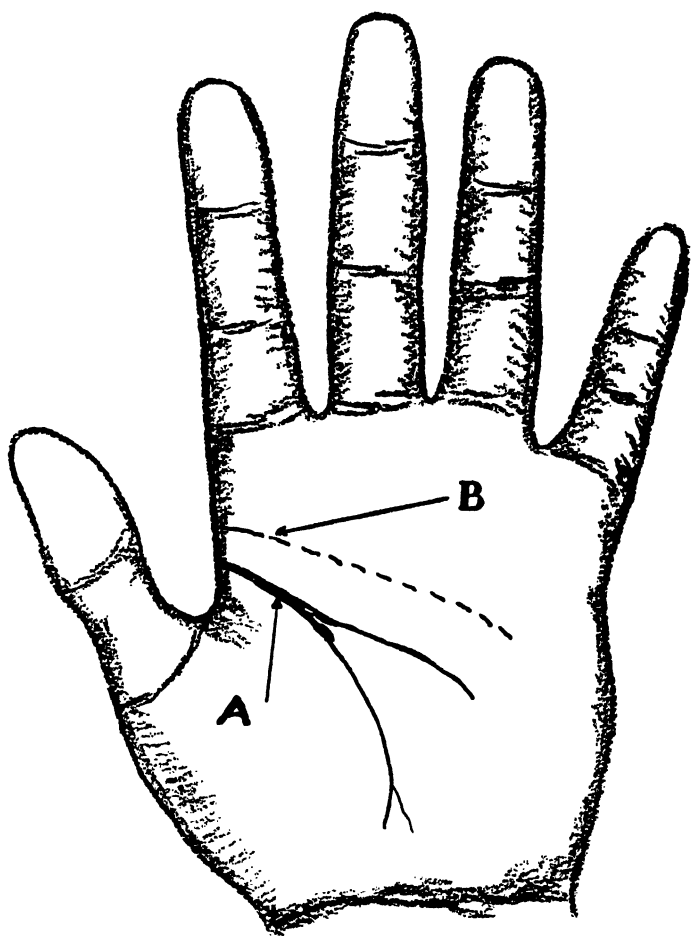
discretion when breaks are observed in this line of Life; they may not be as serious as they look.

Where a line leaves the main Life line, branching out strongly on to the palmar surface, sometimes running down towards the wrist near the mount of Luna, it indicates a naturally restless disposition. The majority of writers on the hand have stated that such marks indicate travel.

Scientifically, this is erroneous and where these 'travel lines' are clearly marked you must confine yourself to an estimation of the degree of restlessness. It is true that if these lines should be very clear in both hands or rather more developed in the right hand than the left, the inborn desire for travel is so strong, the restlessness of the nature so insistent that the subject will travel. Creating, through the insistent demand for change, the opportunity to travel—but you cannot definitely state that travel is predestined.

The Head or Mental line begins between the thumb and first finger, and the formation of this line at its commencement is very important. It may begin just above the Life line, it may be joined to it and showing as an apparent branch of the Life line or it may commence actually on the inside of the Life line. Where the Head line begins as an independent line just above the commencement of the Life line, leaving a small space between the lines, it is known as the 'open' formation. This indicates self-confidence; if this space between these two lines is very wide then it indicates self-confidence developed to the point of rashness. The 'open' formation always indicates some degree of impetuosity.

Where the Head line begins actually touching the Life line and having the appearance of being tied to it, then it indicates a naturally cautious disposition and some lack of self-confidence. Where this formation



### No. 7. THE HEAD LINE

Where a Head line commences, as marked A above, tied tightly to the Life line at its commencement, it indicates a lack of self-confidence ; a very cautious disposition. Where the Head line commences, as B independently, with a small space between the Life line and the Head line, it is an indication of self-confidence. If this space is very wide it indicates rashness.



## The Life and Mental Lines

is very marked, that is, where the two lines are joined for about half an inch, it indicates a psychological defect—a marked under-estimation of personal ability, an inferiority complex; and these people always under-estimate their own abilities, distrust their own judgments and dislike responsibility.

Where the Head line begins actually on the inside of the Life line it is an indication of great timidity, shyness and reticence; these people are continually hampered by this defect and in these hands you will invariably find that the Fate line, the indicator of material progress, is marked in some unsatisfactory manner. These people allow themselves to be pushed to the wall; they never have the courage to voice their own opinions and they always consider that everyone is better than they—this formation is the sign of a well-developed inferiority complex. The opposite formation is found in the very 'open' type, self-confidence developed to rashness; these people are generally guilty of an unsubstantiated conceit—this can be just as dangerous.

Again, to stress the logical deductive method of hand reading, in considering this formation of the Head line at its beginning, the student must not lose sight of the significance of the thumb. Where the thumb is supple and bends back away from the hand indicating impetuosity, this formation accentuates the significance of an 'open' beginning to the Head line; the degree of impetuosity shewn in the width between the two lines is magnified and increased by the supple thumb.

Should the thumb be firm and straight, while the commencement of the Head line shows an 'open' formation, then the determination and strength of the will-power will tend to keep this impetuous tendency, shewn by the beginning of the Head line, in check. A supple thumb on a hand bearing the Head and Life lines

## The Life and Mental Lines

closely tied at their beginnings still show caution coupled with an impulsive, timid tendency of the mind.

Examining the formation of the actual Head line itself it can be accepted as a definite rule that the straighter the Head line in its course across the palm, the more calculating and far-seeing is the subject. Here again the formation of the actual line has some bearing on the indications of the line's beginning. A Head line that is long and very straight betrays a thoughtful and calculating type of mind; if there is a space between the Head and Life lines at the beginning, the combination produces a quick calculative mind.

If this commencement is 'closed', the caution indicated is accentuated by the calculative tendency of the mind shewn in the actual formation of the line itself; these people would be slowly thoughtful, they would weigh very carefully the pros and cons of any problem, they would never hurry to a decision.

It can also be taken as another definite rule that the greater the downward curve of the Head line, the greater the degree of imagination. If you find a Head line sweeping down to the wrist on the Mount of Luna it is an indication of imagination developed to an abnormal degree; there is very definite danger of hallucination if the line actually runs on to the Mount of Luna.

The best type of Head line to possess is one that curves gently downwards towards its end; straight in the first half, although slightly on a slope, the actual downward curve beginning about half-way along the line.

This formation indicates a combination of calculation and imagination. The imaginative faculties serving the calculative, thereby increasing forethought; the subject is able to 'imagine possibilities', he can visualize the consequences of his actions.

## The Life and Mental Lines

Often the Head line ends in a forked formation; the main line splitting at its end, one fork either following the original course of the main line or tending to turn slightly upwards, the other fork curving downwards.

This forked formation indicates a balancing of the practical and the imaginative qualities of mentality. In these cases the subjects are always inclined to become hesitant and undecided if they employ any contemplative process of calculation in their search for the solution to any problem; particularly is this the case when there are any indications of a natural cautiousness shewn. Such people are always well advised to make quick but not, of course, impulsive decisions.

The student must bear in mind the fact that there is a marked difference between the rapid estimation of probabilities, known colloquially as 'quick thinking', and actual impetuosity of mind. In the one case there is a rapid review of facts and circumstances to form a basis for definite calculative reasoning from which to form a decision: in the other case there is action dictated by emotional or sentimental urges without rhyme or reason.

This Head line, considered in connection with the significance of the fingers, gives a very accurate hint as to the type of career or work for which the subject is fitted. For example, a long straight Head line, on a hand possessing long waisted fingers at once indicates a thoughtful disposition; the person who would naturally think; who would consider details with care—in fact, there is always some danger of this type of person becoming too careful, even fastidious, over the correctness of detail. But such a hand would at once indicate the subject's fitness for some mental occupation.

The straight Head line, but with short fat fingers, indicates still a thoughtful disposition. The short fin-

## The Life and Mental Lines

gers, however, give quickness, and with the thick bases to the fingers there is added the faculty of Intuition. In this type of hand intuition always assists, unconsciously, the calculative efforts of the mind. These people are quick-thinking but intuitively so; they rarely hesitate, and they are generally shrewdly near the mark in whatever they undertake or decide to do.

Where the Head line bends sharply down from its beginning, and particularly with an 'open' formation at the commencement of the line, it is an indication of the purely imaginative and romantic type of mind. These people live in a world of their own, and they are most impractical. This type of Head line is mostly found on the very finely lined hand; the hand where the lines are all numerous and very fine, indicating a 'highly strung' and nervous disposition and further proves that these people live on their emotional urges and are entirely devoid of directional reasoning powers.

A short straight Head line indicates the materialist; generally these people have very well-developed joints—reason and logic in excess. The short straight Head line is indicative of a mind that accepts nothing that cannot be proved in a material manner; they believe in nothing that cannot be tested by the senses.

Quite a number of people have said to me, 'I have a line in my hand which is most peculiar, no one seems to know what it means.' And invariably this has proved to be a Head line running straight across the palmar surface to join with the Heart line, making one straight deep crease across the palm. This formation is, however, by no means uncommon. It indicates a very strong materialistic tendency and enormous will-power; these people are capable of showing enormous tenacity of purpose, but the degree of determination is gauged by their personal interest or desire. If they really want a

## The Life and Mental Lines

thing, position or person, it would have to be a very formidable obstacle that would prevent their success.

This formation, in a bad hand, is very dangerous. I have observed this formation in the hands of some of the most brutal types of criminals—but it does not indicate a criminal tendency, merely an obstinate tenacity of purpose.

Where there is a double formation of the Head line it is an indication of enormous brain power; this type of Head line is only found on the hands of very intelligent people.

Having observed the general formation of the Head line you must carefully examine its actual composition.

Is it a clear thin unbroken line?

Does it possess small islanded formations in its texture?

Are there any actual breaks in the line?

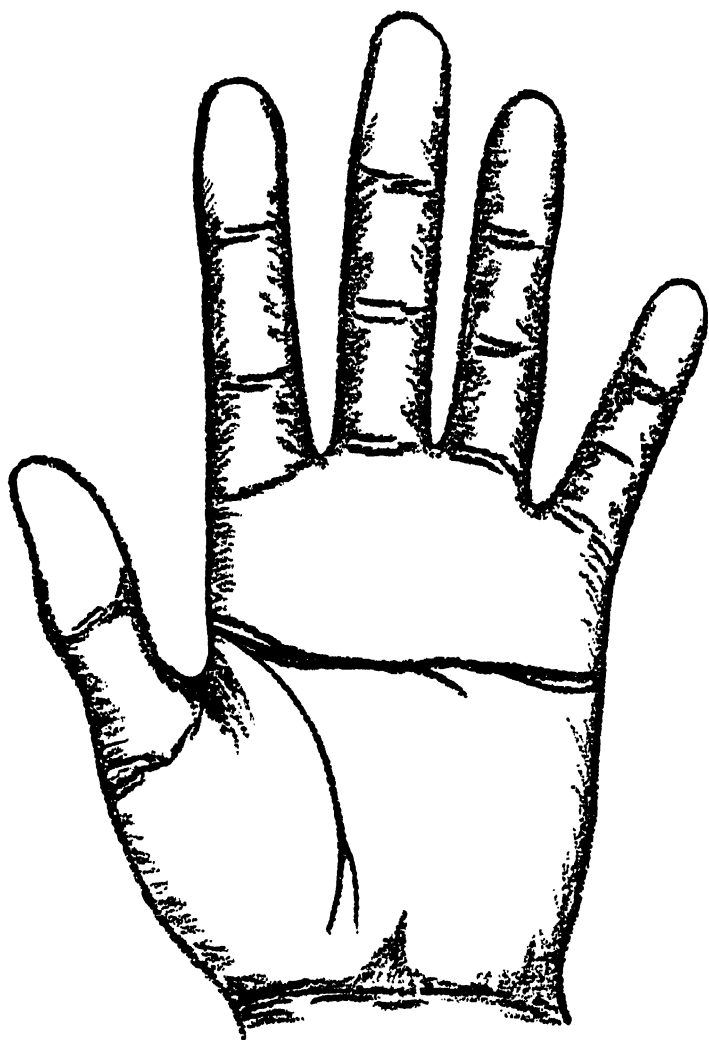
Can you detect any minute pin-points actually in the composition of the line?

If the Head line is thin and clear it indicates a finely equipped mentality, but it must be clear and devoid of any small islanded formations or minute dots.

If the actual line is broad and deep it indicates a materialistic tendency, but a mind that feels deeply and whose conclusions are definite and personally conclusive.

Where there are small islands, that is, where the line splits and joins again enclosing a minute section of the skin surface, it is an indication of some lacking of concentrative ability. Very often this formation is found clearly marked at the commencement of the line, this indicates a lacking of concentration in the early years, generally due to some physical disability like anæmia.

In the Head line that sweeps down in a sharp curve to the Mount of Luna you will generally find numerous minute islands in the actual line; these increase the lack



#### No. 8. ENORMOUS WILL-POWER

Where the Head and Heart lines form one deep crease across the centre of the palm it is an indication of the ability of the subject to display enormous tenacity of purpose, which, in a good hand, is an excellent marking to possess, but in a hand betraying evil traits becomes dangerous.

## The Life and Mental Lines

of concentration and prove the existence of marked mental instability.

Where the Head line is only marked with one minute island, this island indicates by its length a period of mental strain. An island approximately a quarter-inch long indicates a period of eighteen months to two years. These islands are often found in the hands of quite clever and successful people, and you will find that they coincide with the time when the individual was making his greatest mental efforts towards success, and the success of these people is always dependent upon their mental abilities.

Often you will find an island clearly marked at the end of the Head line; this is an indication of some danger of mental aberration late in life, generally a tendency for weakening of memory. If the island is large and terminates the line it is an indication of danger of loss of memory.

A Head line that contains a series of long thin islands indicates a more serious mental state, not necessarily insanity. There is always, in these cases, lack of concentration and the mental processes fluctuate. At times the subjects are extremely thoughtful and reasonable, while at other times they are emotional, illogical and entirely unstable.

For the actual cause the student must examine the whole hand very carefully and search closely for signs of disease, particularly any bacterial condition affecting the blood. Certain toxic conditions of the blood interfere with the nutrition of the brain, or at times cause a partial paralyzation of certain thought processes.

Where the Head line shows actual breaks there are indications of some injury to the brain structure.

The student must not confuse a break with a branch line growing from the Head line and developing

## The Life and Mental Lines

strongly after leaving the main line, thereby giving the appearance of a break. You will often observe these branch lines curving slightly upward towards Mercury, leaving the main line towards its end. Such markings indicate an increase in practical or logical ability; these formations are often seen on the hands of very successful business men.

Where the Head line shows one deep clear indentation, which, of course, is minute, it indicates slight injury to the head.

I surprised the Editor of the *Film Pictorial*. I had been writing a series of short articles on the imprints of Film Stars' hands. These imprints were handed to me at the offices of the paper. One morning the imprint of the hand of Garry Marsh was handed to me and I observed a minute indentation and remarked upon it. This so impressed the staff that the following notice appeared in the *Film Pictorial*: 'Garry recently had his hand read by Noel Jaquin. . . . Jaquin has never seen Marsh, but, on receiving an inked impression of his hand, immediately declared, "This man has had a bad knock on his head recently." A week previously Garry had stepped out of the Café Royal into the midst of a street brawl. One of the brawlers, mistaking him for an antagonist, landed him a terrific crack on the skull with an ebony cane.'

Often it will be observed that the Head line bears in its composition minute dots throughout its entire length. This dotted appearance is generally found with an islanded formation. These minute dots indicate the existence of some toxin of bacterial origin affecting the brain.

Where the dotted formation is only in one particular part of the line it indicates not an incurable condition as the former formation indicates, but merely an inflamma-



## The Life and Mental Lines

tory condition of the nerves of the head. These people generally suffer from neuralgia of the head.

If the student memorizes the basic principles given in this chapter, there is no Head line in existence that will not reveal the mental processes of the subject's mind, but you must not lose sight of the importance of other marks and formations in the hand. No one line stands alone, for, like the emotions and mental faculties of the human being, they react one upon the other; but the indications of the Head line are so vitally important because it does indicate the degree and strength of mental control and mental attitude to life possessed, and unconsciously expressed, by the individual.

I have tried in the chapter of cases to explain the logical deductive process of hand reading, and I advise the student to study this very carefully.

## *Chapter V*

### The Sex Question

**T**he critical examination of many thousands of hands and their respective lives, has established the amazing fact that 95 per cent of the domestic tragedies are due to the inequality of sex factors.

Dr. Van de Velde, formerly Director of the Gynæcological Clinic at Haarlem, has said, 'Nothing is more fatal to love than disappointment in sexual intercourse.' My psychological researches in connection with the hand have proved this to be very true.

But what are the sex factors? The urges, primarily selfish, that are partly mental, and partly physical, that demand sensual relief, which is some definite physical expression? The whole psychological and physiological mechanism of sex has been designed to one ultimate end—the reproduction of the species. The developed intelligence of Man has discovered the guile of nature which enables him to avoid its snares. The sex act is primarily a pleasure sensation and not a deliberately creative one. The creative impulse is secondary; the consummation of a creative sex act is often purely accidental, and it is illogical to say that this is unnatural, for Man has long since departed from that path laid by nature. He has, so we believe, become superior to his natural and instinctive urges, he is able to some extent to control and guide nature, or perhaps, to be more exact, to thwart nature.

There can be no doubt that sex is one of the most

## The Sex Question

powerful forces implanted in the human being, and owing to the very necessary conventional restrictions and laws formulated for its control in the interest of the state it has become an extraordinarily complex subject.

Complicated by the peculiar conditions and restrictions imposed by civilization, it is rendered more tiresome by the fact that it is subject to such wide variations of expression in the human being.

In our study of the hand we are primarily concerned with the individual rather than the state. Every thinking person is agreed that marriage is an essential institution, and not only for the stability of the State, but in the best interests of the children and their producers.

In this aspect of our study we are to be more concerned with giving to the individual a clearer conception, not only of individual sex make-up, but of personal reactions and the obligations resulting or incurred. And, after all, the stability, the life force of a nation is merely the reflected happiness and energy of its individual lives, so that the stability of marriage, rather than its sanctity, is the factor which determines the strength of the life instinct of the nation: it is the very essence of patriotism in its widest sense. Therefore, anything that makes for the greater happiness and contentment of the individual is of benefit to the nation.

But not only does this sex question affect the happiness of the individual, it closely concerns his health as well, for the field of its activity, useful or adverse, is varied and far-reaching. An increased understanding of sex means fewer and better children, less waste of life and fewer chances of war.

People marry much as they select careers—for all sorts of odd reasons except physical and mental fitness or compatibility. By a careful comparative examination of the hands of any two people it is easily possible, for

## The Sex Question

the expert, to state definitely to what extent they are compatibles. If such a comparison reveals any dangerous degree of sexual inequality a frank warning may be the means of saving two lives from wreck on those hidden reefs, so common in the matrimonial sea.

Three years ago I was consulted by an engaged couple who wished to know if they were suited to each other. My verdict was 'No'. The man practically told me that I did not know what I was talking about.

They were married, and eight months later the wife came to see me again—I had been right. The marriage had proved from the very first a complete failure. The woman told me that she had known little or nothing of the man prior to marriage. Most of the courtship had been conducted by letters. The man's hand betrayed a very strong physical sexuality of an abnormal type, while the hands of the woman showed a definitely idealistic mental type of sexuality, correspondingly *under-sexed physically*. The result was, as I foresaw, disgust and nausea for the woman, while he, disappointed in his partner, found sexual relief with other women.

When examining the hand in connection with sex processes the student must remember that it is vitally important to be able to differentiate between the psychic sex urges and the purely physical sex impulses.

I have found that the majority of men are mainly physical in sex type, whereas the majority of women are mainly psychic; that is, the physical type desire and enjoy the physical act, while the psychic type desire and enjoy the pre-love play, the voluptuous kisses and carresses of the beloved, and they only momentarily enjoy the actual physical act in a sacrificial consideration of their partner's physical needs.

These are the two definite and distinctive types of sex urges ; their variations are infinite. Endless com-

## The Sex Question

binations of the psychic and physical types of sex emotions occur.

There is a third type which is composite and bisexual with alternation.

These psychological studies of the hand throw a very strong light on the injustice of the 'pure-minded'; which is, often, the symptom of some emotional repression caused either by fear or, as is much more common, by some early acquired inhibition.

There is no doubt that *undue* sex repression, particularly between married couples, does tend to exert a harmful effect.

I have found in many cases that marked emotional repression tends to cause an alteration in the chemistry of the body, which is liable ultimately to produce structural alteration of tissue; certainly producing a predisposition to malignant disease.

Every student of psychology is aware of the many obscure nerve diseases produced by repression—that is excessive repression—of natural emotions.

Pfister, in his book, *The Psycho-Analytic Method*, says, 'Innumerable monks and nuns suffer from severe hysteria, obsessional neurosis or other tortures. Countless strictly religious men and women get into awful sadism and masochism so that the history of religion drips with blood. One needs think only of the burning of witches, persecutions of heretics, wars over faith, self-torture, even suicide in which the repressed material ever emerged in the centre of piety, the ghastly deed (the death of St. Elizabeth) was performed in the name of God. Countless persons come to foolish, immoral, bizarre ideas, to orthodox and ceremonial fanaticism, in which the life instinct is wasted in immoral, unproductive manner in automatism. Countless more fall to a great narrowing of the mental horizon, other multitudes

## The Sex Question

to a weak flight from the world, a cowardly, inefficient attitude towards the future life which leaves this one desolate. Religion, grand and wonderful as it stands before us in its pure form, often changes, according to the testimony of history, from a benefactress to a seducer and instigator of grievous injustice. . . . If you will do God the highest honour, love thy neighbour as thyself. This is His profound conception of the destiny of the life-instinct.'

In this aspect of the hand we are making an intimate and critical study of human behaviour, and we can only discover truth by being courageous, so it is important that we face facts unhesitatingly.

I have found that many men are heavy drinkers not because they are natural inebriates, but because they are sexually unsatisfied, and that many of the so-called saintly types are saintly and 'pure' because they are diseased or abnormal.

'Thanks to these ecclesiastical taboos,' writes Bauer, 'the study of anything even remotely connected with human sexual life came to be regarded as a sign of indecency and lewdness. Everything connected with sex was "filthy", and anyone who concerned himself with the subject was degenerate and indecent. The old Latin motto says, "Naturalia non sunt turpia"; and, after all, what is more natural than sex? Does not sex dominate life completely? It is obvious that these questions must be answered in the affirmative, especially as it can be shown that the sexual character of human beings is unalterable. It is already present in the germ cell. It may be repressed or inhibited in varying degrees in different individuals, but its power is so great that we mortals only too easily become slaves of sex.'

This intimate and analytical study of sex discloses many problems, particularly one that profoundly affects

## The Sex Question

a vast number of individuals and therefore all the nations of the world; it is the problem of birth control.

Any detailed study of sex processes plainly shows that the act of coition is primarily a pleasure sensation and a pleasure urge. Owing to the conditions under which we live in civilized communities its repetition is of necessity frequent, and if every copulative act were permitted to terminate naturally the resulting pregnancies would result in widespread tragedy. In the first place the world would soon become overpopulated, a state that pre-disposes to war, and secondly, it would result in a marked increase in disease and sickness among women. Few women to-day can bear with safety more than two or three children, and every right-thinking individual will admit that it becomes criminal to produce children who cannot be given the advantages of a decent education and a healthy body.

The arguments against birth control are many and mostly stupid. One of the more common objections to birth control is on the ground that it is interfering with the will of God, that we are deliberately tampering with nature. Agreed, we have tampered with nature, and following this line of argument we must forbid the use of mechanical transport, fire for cooking food and a thousand other things. Man was designed to walk and run; he was given legs, and his jaws were originally fashioned to eat the plain uncooked food provided by nature.

The attitudes of the Churches to this question are quite illogical, and to agree with their arguments is to be driven back to a primitive state of subjection to nature which would result in their own destruction: for they forget that they are the products of civilization, and if they would hope to serve a useful purpose they should educate, not dogmatize. Accepting their judgment on

## The Sex Question

this problem the world is to become rapidly overpopulated and by very inferior types, and the minority of intelligent people, for the sake of probable children, would probably abstain from sexual intercourse themselves, to suffer mental and physical deterioration.

Another common objection to birth control is that this knowledge is wrongly used by the unmarried. But this is a danger common to all knowledge ; every discovery can be used wrongly. After all a widespread knowledge of contraceptive methods will result in a decrease, by many thousands, in the number of illegitimate children that otherwise might be born. This objection to Birth Control therefore becomes an argument for its continued usage.

The test of any religion, philosophy or doctrine is in its practical results. My medical and psychological researches in connection with this study of the hand have enabled me to watch, over a long period of years, the effects of contraceptive and non-contraceptive methods in actual practice. And having examined the intimate psychology and lives of hundreds of thousand of people, I consider that I am in a position to express an opinion; and, without hesitation, I state that the advantages of contraceptive methods far outweigh their disadvantages. Practical experiment, the experiment of experience, has proved this to be true.

To-day married women can look forward to a life unburdened by repeated pregnancies. Most people understand one or more methods of birth control before they marry. In many cases there have been preliminary experimental excursions into the Elysian fields of sex experience. Woman is rapidly finding her independence and is ceasing to be the slave of Man; she is becoming his companion—a state intended, I believe, from the beginning of time.



## The Sex Question

There are many methods of Birth Control, and another fact that my researches in connection with the hand have revealed is the importance of the actual method employed. *It is very important for a married couple to select that method which gives no æsthetic offence, but which is still compatible with safety.* If the beauty of the intimate sex act is spoiled by the employment of some method giving æsthetic offence, then the act is robbed of its otherwise beneficial effects. If advice is to be given on this point it will be very necessary to study carefully the mentalities and the quality and types of the sex urges in the two people.

There is one form of Birth Control employed by many of the more religious types of people which is definitely harmful to both participants. This is known as *coitus interruptus*, and I have found that this has been responsible, in many cases, for obscure nerve conditions in both men and women. The sudden withdrawal at the point of climax is, in itself, a nerve shock; certainly it leaves the woman unsatisfied, sleepless and irritable and tends to produce impotency in the man. In any case it is a method that is far from 'safe'.

Often the use of greasy pessaries is æsthetically distasteful to an artistic and refined woman. Certain health conditions prohibit their use as tending to cause vaginal inflammation, or irritation of the glands of the man. I advise the serious student to read some of the many excellent books now published on Birth Control methods.

In active practice I have found that many domestic tragedies have been caused by stupid and unnecessary restraint in the marital relationships produced by inhibitory mental processes in one or other of the partners.

One case comes now to my mind. Three years ago a

## The Sex Question

woman consulted me with regard to the failure of her marriage. She had been married just eighteen months when her husband started to drink and to neglect his home, and they had just agreed to separate.

On examining her hand I found clear indications of an inhibition due to early training. She admitted that her early training had been strict, her parents were very religious and she had been taught to regard anything connected with sex as 'sinful', and even when sanctified by marriage it was still mildly 'sinful'. This stupid inhibitory process had merely succeeded in spoiling two lives. Much to her astonishment I told her that she was to blame; in this I proved to be correct. She would never undress with her husband present nor would she permit any sexual caresses unless the light was out and they were 'decently' in bed. I endeavoured to show her where the fault lay; I advised her to take her husband back on the condition that he stopped drinking, but I also pointed out that she must also cease to be so ridiculously modest.

Two years later this same woman came to see me again, but to thank me; she had followed my advice and their married life was now following a normal happy course.

We who populate the earth at this time are living in one of the most difficult of all ages; the normal evolutionary changes have been accelerated by the Great War, and of the many things affected by this acceleration, not least among them is sex. This critical study of the hand can be of great value in this direction. I have observed a marked increase during the last five years in abnormal sex types. The natural conditions of civilization must inevitably produce what must be termed 'unnatural' types, although being the logical sequence of the existing conditions they are, to some extent,

## The Sex Question

'natural'. All human beings are bisexual and the actual type of sex expression is determined by the predominating sex element. There are many cases where this predominating sex factor is subject to alternation—the true bisexual.

There are many cases where the dominating sex factor is psychically contrary to the physical determinative factors of sex; this produces the invert.

Havelock Ellis states: 'Congenital sexual inversion—that is to say, sexual instinct turned by inborn constitutional abnormality towards persons of the same sex—is a comparatively rare phenomenon so far as our knowledge at the present extends.'

I cannot agree, as I have found that this 'congenital sexual inversion' is by no means rare. True, these things are hidden; these sexual abnormalities are people's most closely guarded secrets.

Apparently, as the wave of civilization nears its crest, there is an increase in the production of the 'natural' invert; that is, the individual whose physical form confers the distinguishing marks of one sex, while the inward psychic sex urges belong to the opposite sex: the psychic sex factors are in opposition to the physical sex factors. And in nearly all of these cases of 'natural' inversion I have found a very highly sensitive nervous system—and, very often, great intelligence. There is no doubt that *acquired* inversion is not only vicious, but is also mentally destructive; but the 'natural' invert should be the object of pity, as this is analogous to a diseased condition.

Another aspect of this sex question is that of masturbation; this study of the hand, revealing as it does so many unsuspected urges and conditions, often reveals this practice. It has been extensively discussed and almost unanimously condemned in the cheap 'sex in-

## The Sex Question

struction' type of book; quite a number of which are decidedly pornographic. I have found comparatively few cases of nervous debility caused by masturbation. This practice is also termed 'self-abuse'. I would rather agree with Bauer and use the term 'self-gratification'; it is certainly more exact.

This is a practice that is generally supposed to be confined to the male sex; there are as many women who indulge in or practise this form of sex expression as men.

Bauer states: 'The woman can satisfy her desires by rubbing or otherwise manipulating the erogenous zones of the genital organs, e.g., the labia and clitoris, which are richly supplied with nerve endings. These manipulations gradually increase in dexterity, until what almost deserves to be called a technique is acquired.'

This practice is by no means confined to civilization; it flourishes among all primitive peoples and merely becomes more ingenious and refined in the civilized atmosphere. Practically the whole of the animal kingdom, particularly domesticated animals, shows signs of instinctive masturbative tendencies.

From the careful observations made it is rarely that any marked ill-effects are produced by its moderate practice in highly sexed subjects; it is quite impossible to define the *point of moderation* in any sex activity, except by making such a definition for individual guidance after a critical survey of the individual physiological and mental make-up. In human sex activity there is such wide variation. In some cases this practice has acted as a 'safety valve' to the sex emotions.

In considering sex emotion, and before giving any advice relative to any individual sex problem or activity, the student must carefully consider the type of mentality, the degree of the 'idealistic' tendency of the mind and the degree of sensitivity. In the case of many married

## The Sex Question

people, a certain erotic stimulation is necessary, before sex activity or expression can become either pleasurable or beneficial. Particularly is this necessary in the case of women where there exists some 'coldness'. In the majority of women the sex urges are of mental origin, therefore mental stimulation by the senses of either sight, touch or hearing is very important. If only husbands would consider the sex composition of their partners a little more carefully and would take a little more time and trouble, the trouble artistically to stimulate their partners' erotic emotions, they would, in the majority of cases, find that they were not as 'cold' as they thought and many marriages would be saved from disaster.

Love, in the sex sense, is after all an art. It is quite possible for people to enjoy sex experience without being in love; but when two people are 'in love' then their approach to sex should be in an instinctive deference to the emotional demands of their partners.

It is generally believed that men are the more highly sexed and that women are mostly under-sexed. This study of the hand has proved this quite wrong. Women with few exceptions, are the more highly sexed and they are using their 'sex appeal' *all* the time. Women, unconsciously perhaps, employ every means in their power to increase the erotic stimulation of their presence on the male in everyday life.

Why do women pay so much attention to their dress? Why the very elaborate preparations for a few hours of dancing? Bauer answers, 'When closely analysed, they will be found to have one aim and one aim only; to have the maximum possible eroticizing and erotic effect. She adorns herself from head to foot. . . . The dress is chosen carefully, agrees with the prevailing mode both in colour and cut, and is cut as low as possible so that

## The Sex Question

breasts, arms and back are wholly or partly exposed.'

Observe the change in the fashion relative to the materials used to clothe the modern female form. Flannelette and linen are no longer fashionable materials for lingerie; it has been discovered that silk, voiles and georgettes possess a much more powerful eroticizing effect. There has been a marked increase in the subtle sex suggestibility of women's clothes in recent years. The bride does not exercise such thoughtful care over her clothes for the wedding day merely 'to look nice'; every bride wants to look as pretty as she can, but the fundamental idea of the frail clinging garments is to ensure an adequate eroticizing effect on the male.

While the sex appeal of the female is becoming more assertive there is an increased activity of the feminine sex factors in men. Beards are out of fashion; one rarely sees a bewhiskered face these days; the majority of men are clean shaven—an indication of an increase in the feminine characteristics of the psychic sex factors in the male.

It is often stated that the Heart line, which is that line beginning generally between the Mounts of Jupiter and Saturn and running out to the edge of the hand beneath the little finger, indicates the number of the subject's love affairs, betraying also their success or failure. This is entirely erroneous. The formation of this line merely indicates the strength and type of the sex urges. The Heart line may begin actually on the Mount of Jupiter, this indicates a rather idealistic mental type of sex urge or affection. These people are apt to place the object of their affections on a pedestal, therefore this marking predisposes these subjects to disappointments, as they would expect too much of those for whom they had affection; they are too idealistic.

## The Sex Question

Where the Heart line begins at the base of the Mount of Jupiter and runs in a straight line to the edge of the hand beneath the little finger it still indicates an idealistic tendency, but with a marked tendency towards jealousy. These people are 'difficult' in love; they demand a very high degree of emotional adaptability in the psychological make-up of their partners. Often this may be an unconscious demand, but it does affect their love affairs and tends to make them difficult.

Where the Heart line commences actually between the Mounts of Jupiter and Saturn, sweeping down in a wide curve to the edge of the hand beneath the little finger, it indicates a masculine trend of sexuality. The affections in these cases are likely to be more matters of actual physical attraction; these people are physically passionate, they are warm-hearted, generous and sympathetic.

The straight type of Heart line indicates, in a man's hand, a more feminine type of sexuality. With the straight Heart line the psychic sex urges are stronger than the physical. Whereas the Heart line that sweeps down in a wide well-defined curve to the outer edge of the hand indicates a more masculine physical trend of the sexual urges.

Knowing that the majority of human beings are bisexual we have an explanation of the forked type of Heart line. Often you will find a Heart line that begins with a very well-defined fork, one branch running up between the first and second fingers while the other branch is straight and runs on to the Mount of Jupiter. The fork that runs up between the two first fingers indicates a physical sexual tendency while the fork that runs from Jupiter—which would tend to straighten the actual Heart line, indicates the more feminine or mental type of sexuality.

## The Sex Question

In making a detailed survey or analysis of sex from the hand you must remember that there are other factors to be considered; your final decision cannot rest on the formation of the Heart line alone. A Heart line may show very strong sexual tendencies, but they may never be expressed, they may either be deliberately controlled or repressed by some acquired inhibitions.

In considering the sexual tendencies of the individual you must first estimate the type and strength of the will as betrayed in the formation of the thumb. Then consider the type of mentality that your subject possesses—this is shewn in the formation of the Head line; last of all, consider the degree of emotional sensitivity shewn in the hand. You will often find, running across the Mounts of the hand at the base of the fingers, a number of horizontal semi-circular lines—this formation is known as the Girdle of Venus. It is frequently stated that this formation betrays a vicious sensuous tendency; this formation indicates actually the degree of emotional responsiveness to stimulatory suggestion and does not relate to sexuality alone. It is found in the hands of very artistic people, in the hands of musicians. Naturally, if people are highly sexed and they possess also these indications of emotional responsiveness then they will respond sexually much quicker to sex suggestions or stimulation than in those cases where the same degree of sexuality is shewn, but with the indications of sensitivity missing.

Where the Heart line betrays strong sex urges, the thumb indicating marked impulsiveness by being of a definitely supple type, the actual Head line sweeping down sharply on to the Mount of Luna, showing a very romantic imaginative tendency of the mind with a well-marked Girdle of Venus—the sex instincts of such a subject would be dangerous; they would be too easily



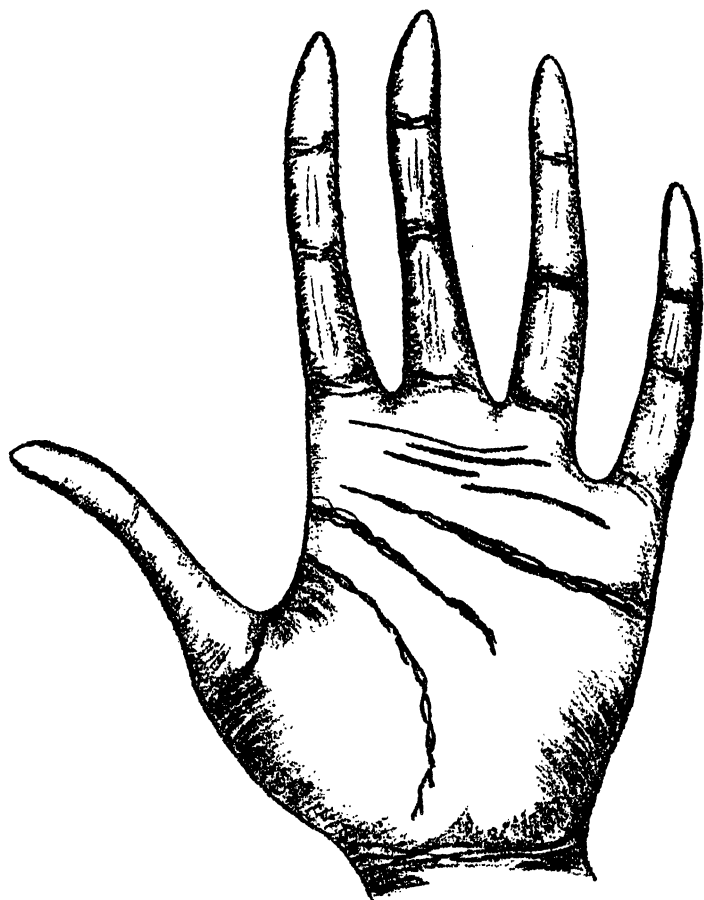
## The Sex Question

stimulated erotically and with no mental control, a very promiscuous tendency being then produced.

Sex emotions and urges are experienced very often long before the physical sex organs are developed fully enough to permit of any effective normal sex expression. These early sex emotions are most frequent in those children possessing supple thumbs with a well-defined Girdle of Venus. And the longer the Heart line, the earlier the sex development begins.

It is, in such a complicated aspect of hand reading as this, easier for the student to follow the laws of deductive reasoning by the examination of some actual cases.

In Illustration 9 is the exact reproduction of the hand of a girl of nineteen years of age. This girl consulted me for health reasons; she had been treated by her family doctor for some time without any improvement having taken place. I found signs of nervous exhaustion. Very fine lines on any hand always indicate an active and 'highly strung' nervous system; the lines of this hand are very fine, while the Head and Life lines are fretted with small islands. There were no signs of any diseased condition, that is any actual bacterial disease, being present, but the whole hand showed lack of balance, mental balance. The Heart line is very straight and very long; it indicates a marked 'idealistic' type of sexuality. Whenever, as in this case, the Heart line is low on the hand it increases the sexual tendency. The Girdle of Venus is clearly marked as four definite horizontal lines across the Mounts. The thumb is supple and bends back sharply away from the hand; this impetuosity, plus the sensitivity indicated by the broken Girdle of Venus, betrays marked responsiveness to suggestion. The Head line being islanded shows a lack of control or concentrative ability which is proved by the possession of an impulsive type of thumb. The space



#### No. 9. LACK OF EMOTIONAL CONTROL

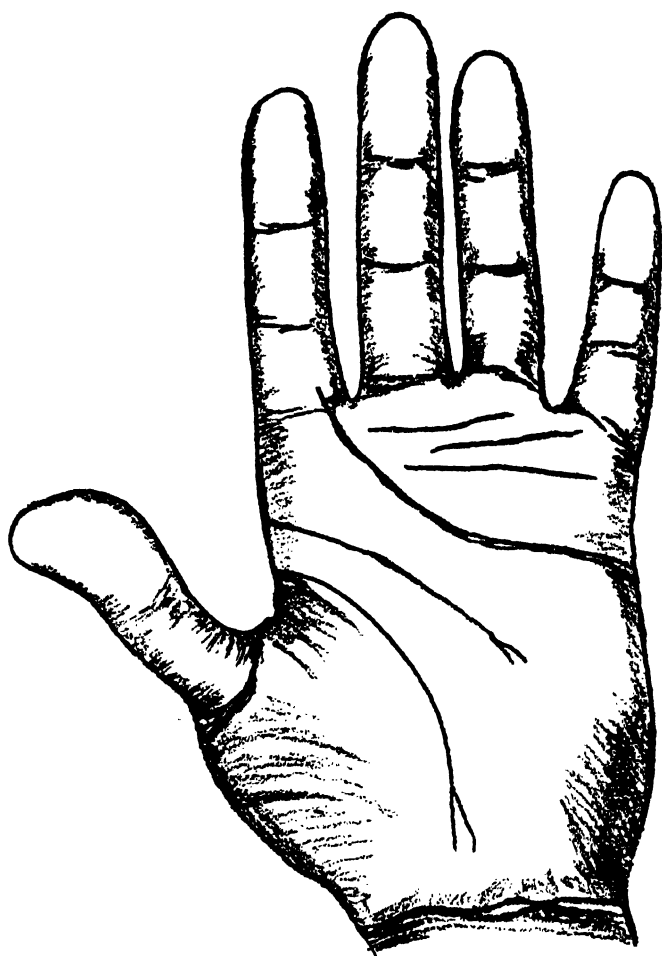
The above is an exact reproduction of the hand of a girl of nineteen. The Head line is islanded, showing lack of concentrative ability. The Head line begins with a wide space between the Life line and its actual commencement. This shows rashness. The thumb is supple, indicating a natural impulsiveness, this accentuates the mental impetuosity shown by the beginning of the Head line. The Heart line is very straight and very islanded, showing a very powerful mental sexuality. The Girdle of Venus is formed of four broken lines across the Mounts; these indicate emotional sensitivity. The fingers are thin and pointed, showing an 'idealistic' tendency—the fingers of a dreamer. All of the fingers are very crooked, indicating an over-development of tactfulness—the fingers of a liar. This hand shows a complete lack of emotional control.

## The Sex Question

between the Head and Heart lines is very wide; this space betrays the mental outlook of the individual on Life; *where it is very wide it shows a disregard for the conventions*, a broad-minded and sympathetic type of person. Whenever this space is very narrow it indicates a person with very set views, generally due to early training. The fingers are long, thin and pointed; this indicates an 'idealistic' and dreamy type of mind; these people are never very practical. In this case the fingers are crooked; the tactful and diplomatic tendencies developed to a deceptive degree—the fingers of the liar. Naturally, after weighing such evidence, I suspected excessive sexual activities. There were no signs of any normal sexual intercourse having taken place, yet the hand showed sexual activities as being the primary cause of the general nervous debility. I pronounced a verdict of excessive masturbation. I was correct.

This girl could not witness an ordinary love scene in a film-play without experiencing an uncontrollable desire to masturbate. She was in the habit of reading in bed, and any normal romance was enough to rouse sexual desire. She told me she disliked boys and she felt no sexual emotion from their kisses and only once had a boy touched her sexually and she immediately felt repugnance and boxed his ears. She was masturbating four times a week at the least. I sent her to a specialist for medical treatment; it is her only chance of avoiding ultimate insanity. A case of lack of normal control—or excessive sexual sensitivity.

I recently examined the hand of a man whose Heart line began on the edge of the first phalange of the first finger and swept in a wide curve to the edge of the hand. The Girdle of Venus was formed of three clear lines. The actual Head line was fairly normal but inclined to be low on the hand, therefore the space between the



#### No. 10. A PHYSICAL SEX URGE

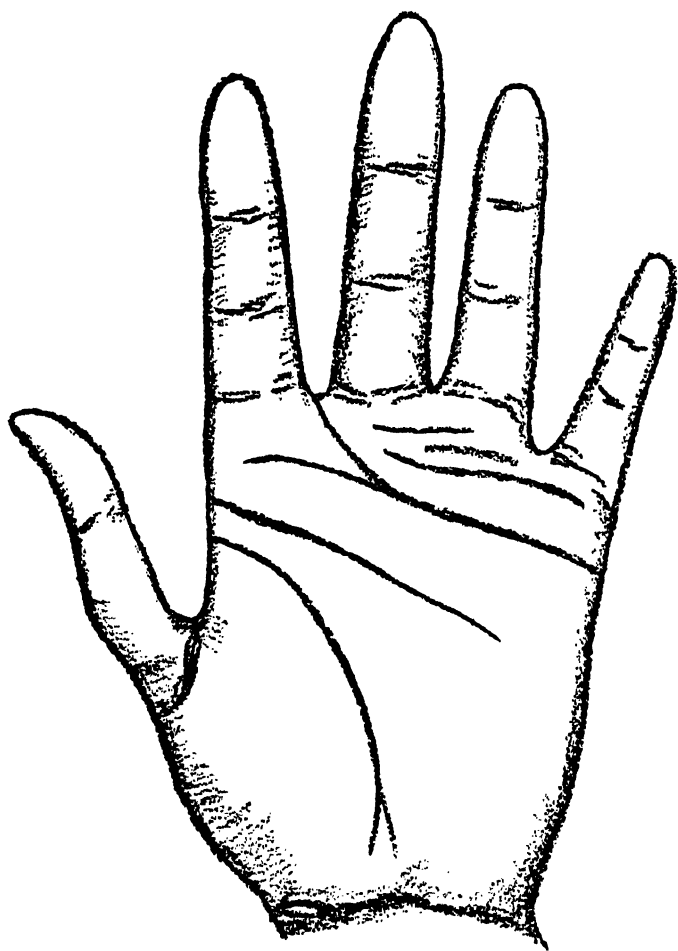
In the hand of this man the Heart line commences abnormally high on the first phalange of the first finger, and sweeps in a wide curve to the edge of the hand. This indicates strong physical sex tendencies. Being so abnormally high on the hand it is an indication of an abnormally early commencement of sex activity. The physical sex urges are accentuated by the broken Girdle of Venus across the Mounts, and impulsive responsiveness to these urges is indicated by the wide space between the Head and Life lines, coupled with the impetuous tendency shown by the thumb.

## The Sex Question

Heart and Head lines was *wide*, showing a *lack* of any controlling inhibition. The thumb, while fairly thick at its top joint, was also slightly supple; this combination of determination and impulse is by no means rare. This hand, which is Illustration 10, shows as its outstanding feature strong sexual impulses beginning at an early age. The man experienced vague sex urges at six years of age. His first definite sexual urge is remembered in connection with the sight of a nurse feeding his younger brother at the breast. At eight years of age he indulged in masturbative sexual practices with a young servant girl, and at twelve years of age he experienced actual intercourse with a girl cousin.

Illustration 11 is the hand of a woman of twenty-two years of age. The fingers are short, indicating a natural quickness. The thumb is of a definite supple type, indicating impulsiveness. This impulsive tendency is accentuated by the 'open' formation of the Head line at its commencement. The actual Head line is long, indicating a rather calculative tendency of the mind which is, of course, weakened by the high degree of impetuosity *shewn by supple thumb and 'open' Head line*. The space between the Heart and Head lines is wide, indicating a broad and unconventional outlook on Life. The actual Heart line is straight, but with two definite forks; one fork begins high between the first and second finger, this indicates a strong masculine or physical type of sexuality. The other fork begins just below the Mount of Jupiter indicating a strong 'idealistic' tendency, a decidedly feminine sexual trait, a strong mental sexual type. This is the hand of a definitely bisexual woman. The broken Girdle of Venus accentuates emotional responsiveness.

This woman had enjoyed normal sex relationship with the man she was engaged to, and she had also



#### NO. 11. A BISEXUAL TYPE

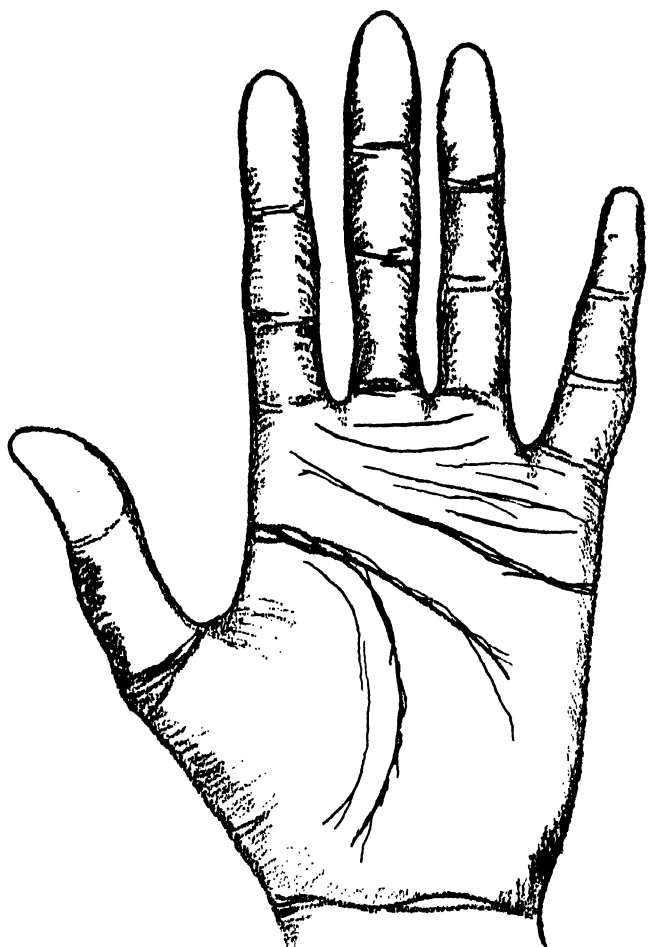
This hand shows emotional impetuosity by the supple thumb and the space between the Head and Life lines. Emotional responsiveness is indicated by the Girdle of Venus shown across the Mounts. The space between the Head and Heart lines is wide, which indicates a broad-minded and unconventional mental outlook. The Heart line is of a mental sexual type; it is straight and placed high on the hand, one fork commencing on the Mount of Jupiter with a second fork beginning high between the first and second fingers, indicating a strong desire for some physical expressiveness of a mental sexual emotion.

## The Sex Question

enjoyed sexual masturbative practices with a woman friend.

Illustration 12 is the hand of a man aged twenty-eight. The lines of this hand are very numerous and very fine; this indicates a highly strung nervous system. The thumb is slightly supple, the fingers are of a thoughtful type—slightly waisted. The actual Head line is very islanded and is closely joined to the Life line, indicating lack of concentration and a very cautious disposition. The Heart line is very straight and indicates a definitely feminine sexual tendency while the Girdle of Venus is a series of broken horizontal lines, six or seven in number, indicating abnormal sensitivity. This is the hand of an invert. He first began to take notice of the members of his own sex at twelve years of age. Not until sixteen years of age did he experience any physical demonstration of his sexual inversion. At this age he met a distant relative who, finding a suitable subject, initiated him into the secrets of inverted love. He has never been attracted to women, has always been very fastidious in his dress and personal appearance. He has had numerous love affairs with other men and there has occurred an increasing genital hyperæsthesia. Drug treatment failed to alter his sexual condition, but he was able to get some help from psycho-analytical procedure.

Illustration 13 is the hand of a woman of forty years of age. The fingers are of a thoughtful type; the thumb is firm and straight, indicating a strong will-power. The Head line is fairly long and straight, indicating logic and reason. The Head line is high on the hand and causes some narrowing of the space between Head and Heart; this indicates very set views and opinions. The actual Heart line curves gently from the Mount of Jupiter to the outer edge of the hand and indicates a mental type of sexuality. The Life line, enclosing the



### No. 12. THE HAND OF AN INVERT

This is the hand of a man of twenty-eight. In the actual hand all the lines are extremely fine and very numerous, indicating a highly strung sensitive nervous system. The thumb is slightly supple, accentuating the lack of emotional control. The actual Head line is very islanded, indicating a lack of concentration. The Heart line is very straight with two forks commencing on the Mount of Jupiter. This Heart line indicates a definitely feminine sexual tendency, while the abnormal formation of the Girdle of Venus, which is formed of seven horizontal lines, indicates abnormal emotional sensitivity.

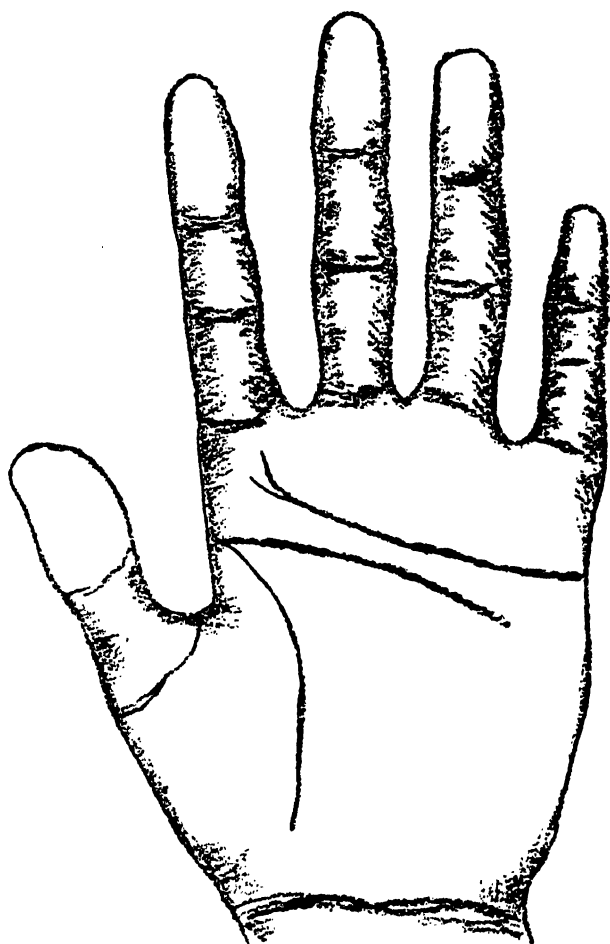


## The Sex Question

Mount of Venus, runs down to the wrist in what is nearly a straight line; this restriction of the Mount of Venus shows lack of warmth in the affections, a lacking of the animal spirit. This restriction of the Mount of Venus plus the 'idealistic' tendency of the 'mental' Heart line and the absence of the Girdle of Venus indicates a cold unresponsive sexuality. Any physical demonstration of sexual attraction is repugnant to this woman. She was married at thirty to a man six years older than herself, an actively healthy sexual type of man. The marriage failed after two years and she obtained a divorce on the ground of her husband's misconduct; she still thinks that she has been badly treated and she hates men; she spends nearly every moment of her life in various 'reform' movements.

Where the Heart line is crossed at its beginning by numerous fine upright lines, or where these upright lines appear to drop from the main Heart line, it is an indication of a flirtatious tendency, a healthy normal attraction to the opposite sex. These lines apparently cease or diminish in number from twenty to twenty-five years of age when the sex urges become either more controlled, settled or selective. Where the lines of the hand are thick or broad in appearance it is an indication of a definitely physical tendency of sex expression and these people are, as a rule, unable to make any preliminary finesse in their sexual adventures. This is left to those who possess hands bearing very fine lines; fine lines always indicate a more 'mental' or psychic type than the thick broad type of line.

It will be found that those women who possess the straight type of Heart line generally attract and enjoy the company of men older than themselves. The explanation is fairly simple; the straight type of Heart line indicates the more psychic sexual type; there is a desire



### No. 13. SEXUAL COLDNESS

The thumb is firm and straight, indicating a strong will, hence emotional control. The Head line is fairly long and straight, indicating logic and reason. The Head line being high on the hand indicates an intellectual control of emotion. The Heart line begins on the Mount of Jupiter and is fairly straight. This line indicates a mental sexuality. The space between the Head and Heart lines is extremely narrow, indicating a narrow restricted outlook on life; a rather selfish tendency, while the actual Life line runs sharply down the hand to restrict the Mount of Venus, which indicates a lack of physical warmth or animal spirit.

## The Sex Question

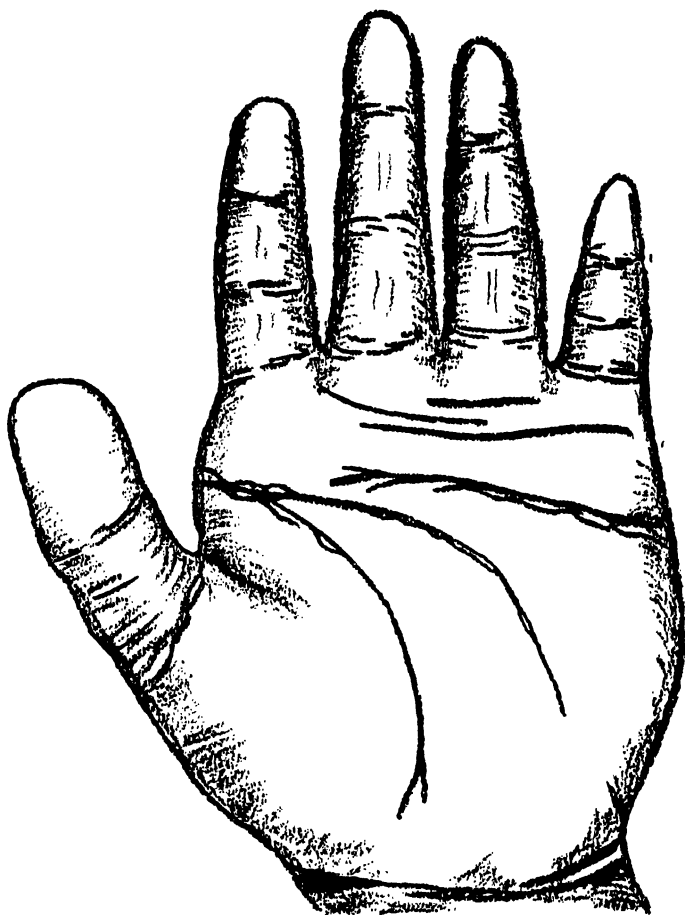
to enjoy the preliminaries—the pre-love play; there is also a greater emotional response to sex stimulation on their part. The younger men are inclined to be too direct, they lack in the art of approach; and the older a man becomes, as a rule, the more he enjoys and appreciates the emotional response of the woman.

Illustration 14 is an exact scale drawing of a hand that would baffle many students; it is a hand that betrays definite lack of balance and is a wonderful example of the apparent contradictions that one so often finds in a lesser degree in more *normal* people's hands.

Observe the formation of the short thick fingers; these fingers compare with the fingers of the gorilla, they betray the same brute tendencies of the mind. The first finger is very short which shows a lacking of self-esteem, a lack of personal pride; a feeling of shame is unknown to this man. The thumb is very short and squat with the top joint very thick and heavy; this thumb indicates a brutal unreasoning obstinacy.

Now observe the formation of the actual Head line. It is apparently a contradiction to the indications of the fingers and thumb. This Head line sweeps down in a sharp curve towards the Mount of Luna, which indicates a vivid imagination. The commencement of the Head line shows a 'closed' formation, indication cautiousness. The space between the Head and Heart lines is very narrow; this indicates a narrow selfish outlook on Life, this man would view everything from a definitely personal point of view. The Heart line is straight, indicating a jealous temperament and, being also short, it indicates a brutal selfish sexual tendency of a 'mental' order. The Girdle of Venus is well marked indicating great emotional responsiveness, the sign of emotional sensitivity.

With these brutal fingers and thumb plus the 'men-



#### No. 14. A CRIMINAL TYPE

This hand shows marked abnormalities. These are indicated by the apparently contradictory markings shown. The downward curve of the Head line shows vivid imagination. The short brute-like fingers compare with those of the Gorilla. The thumb is abnormally thick and heavy, indicating a brute-like obstinacy. The Heart line is straight, indicating a mental type of sexuality, which on a hand of this kind possesses a brutal quality. The Girdle of Venus accentuates the bestial tendencies. This hand betrays marked Sadistic proclivities.

## The Sex Question

tal' type of sexuality betrayed in the formation of the Heart line—a feminine type of sexuality, the expert on hands would deduce a sadistic tendency. Cunning, because of the cautiousness and lack of personal pride; brutal and dangerous owing to the animal type of fingers and the jealous tendencies betrayed in the formation of the Heart line.

So unbalanced are the psychological factors in this hand that the only possible verdict is brutal abnormality akin to insanity. This is the hand of a man who was engaged for a number of years in the White Slave Traffic and the details of his criminal life are unprintable. He eventually committed murder in a fit of jealous rage. His jealousy was later proved to have been entirely without foundation—the imaginative Head line. Sexual intercourse was nearly always preceded by the flogging of one or more of his helpless victims.

In making an analysis of the sexual emotions and tendencies of the subject the student must not base his deductions entirely on the formation of the Heart line, he must consider the psychological factors that are betrayed by the thumb, fingers, Head line and the Mount of Venus. Often the indications of a bad Heart line are not actually as bad as they seem; evil tendencies may be kept in check by other traits or they may even be entirely nullified.

I also advise the student not to make any definite pronouncements until the fundamental facts have been thoroughly mastered. No man can be qualified to diagnose disease after reading a few chapters of a medical book; he must have practice, he must assimilate the fundamental principles first. And even though this modern system of hand reading may seem to be so very complex it is surprising how simple it really is—it is just applied logic.

## *Chapter VI*

### Minor Psychological Indications

**T**here are a number of minor lines and markings found in the human hand that throw important light on the character and affect the trend of the subject's life.

In the previous chapter I have mentioned those semi-circular horizontal lines found marked across the Mounts of the hand, at the base of the fingers. This formation, known as the Girdle of Venus, indicates the degree of emotional sensitivity. It is found in the hands of all those people who respond to the influences of music, colour, etc., and, when not too definitely marked, it is an excellent mark to have. It is only when it is shewn as a series of lines of broken appearance that it is bad; this formation shows too great a degree of emotional sensitivity. If the Head line is long and straight, then this emotional sensitivity is controlled to some extent by reason. But if the Head line bends down in a sharp curve towards the Mount of Luna, the romantic and imaginative tendency betrayed by this type of Head line accentuates the sensitivity of the Girdle of Venus.

Where this formation is seen as five or six broken lines across the base of the fingers it always indicates great sensitivity, a marked temperamental tendency that is very apt to interfere with the stability of the subject's life.

It has been stated that a well-marked island—an is-

## Minor Psychological Indications

land is formed by the line splitting and joining again—found in the Girdle of Venus, is an indication of Venereal disease. This is not quite correct; it merely indicates some *danger of probable infection*. The reason is obvious, as such an islanded formation increases the sexual responsiveness of the subject and there is then danger of sexual promiscuity. This, of course, increases the danger of such an infection.

The main value of the Girdle of Venus is in conjunction with Head and Heart lines as a gauge of emotional sensitivity.

There is another small line known as the *Via Lasciva*, which, in its strongest formation, is an inverted semi-circular line running from the Mount of Luna across the base of the palmar surface to cut the Life line. This line indicates an inborn desire for emotional excitement; it is found in the hands of drug addicts, inebriates and sexual maniacs. Whenever this line is found fully developed in *both* hands, it is a sign of danger—there is danger of ill-health due to emotional excess; especially if it cuts the Life line.

Normally this line is found merely as a short straight horizontal line on the Mount of Luna; this formation indicates merely a strong predisposition to spasmodic emotional indulgence. But with a firm thumb and a good Head line it means even less—just an appreciation and enjoyment of excitement with no vicious tendency.

Very important data can be gathered by a critical comparison of the left and right hands. Never are both hands marked in exactly the same manner. And it can be accepted as a definite rule that the left hand, in normal right-handed people, indicates the inherited tendencies and emotions of the individual, while the alterations in the right hand indicate the existing ruling characteristic traits.

## Minor Psychological Indications

Therefore, the difference in these two hands will tell you a great deal. For example, the left hand may show the Head line commencing with a 'closed' formation, while the right hand may show it beginning with an 'open' formation. An apparent contradiction that so often baffles the student.

The correct interpretation of these contradictory formations is this: naturally the subject was lacking in self-confidence, was too cautious and inclined to underestimate his abilities—this was the inherited tendency, the natural characteristic trait. But the altered formation in the right hand, which shows the developed characteristic traits, proves, by the 'open' formation, the acquisition of a certain measure of self-confidence. Force of circumstances have caused the self-confidence of the individual to become more marked. A sequence to such alterations is very often increased mental ability; therefore there will be differences in the formations of the left and right-hand Head lines. A certain well-known actor has these altered formations in both hands.

This critical comparison of the two hands must not be confined to the Head line only; you must compare every line and mark. Often there are very important differences between the Heart lines in the two hands which tell of *altered sexual tendencies*.

The spaces between the Head and Heart lines in the palmar surface of the hands is also very often entirely different. The same logical deductive reasoning must be applied in every instance. A *wide space* existing in the *left hand* indicates a naturally broad and sympathetic mental outlook; *with this space narrower in the right hand*, it indicates a *developed narrowness of outlook*, the existence of some early acquired inhibitions.

These differences are very common in the hands of people whose parents or guardians have been narrow-



## Minor Psychological Indications

minded and have possessed, and taught, set conventional philosophies.

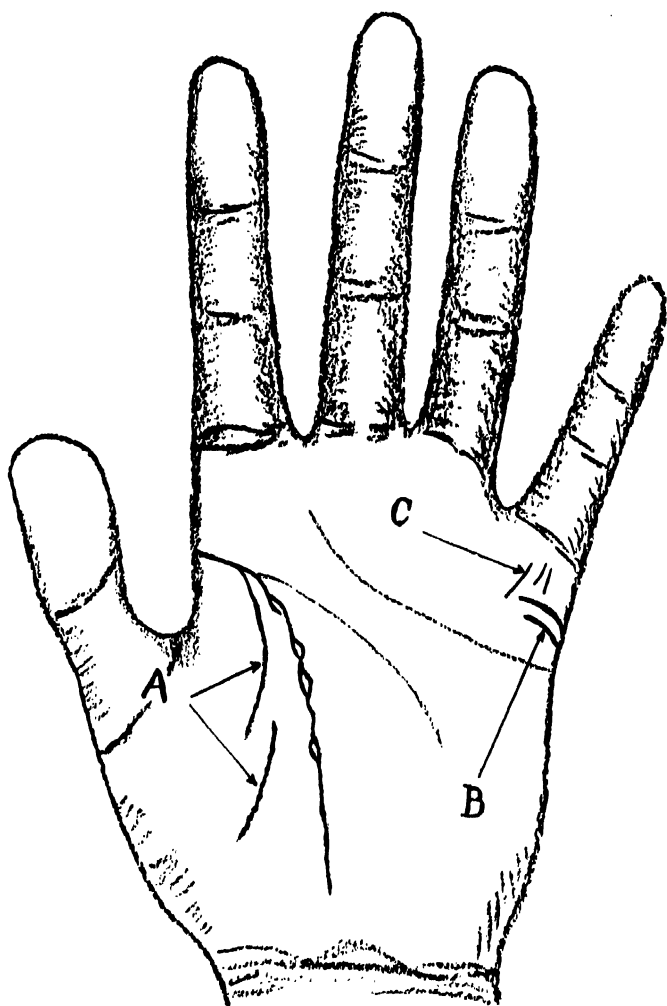
On the inner side of the Life line you will often observe one or more lines running parallel, for varying distances, with the actual Life line. One of these lines may even branch from the main Life line on its inner side. These lines have been termed Influence lines; my researches have proved them to be Resistance lines. That is, they indicate an increased resistance of the body to diseased conditions and they are generally the sequence to the developed, or tending development, of some diseased condition of the body. As these resistant powers of the body improve, the health and special defensive powers become less necessary, so these lines fade and ultimately disappear.

The Marriage lines are found on the Mount of Mercury, towards the edge of the hand, beneath the little finger. They are short horizontal lines and they have, apparently, no psychological significance.

The lines indicating children are found just below the little finger towards the edge of the hand above the Marriage line. These are fine upright lines; the perfectly straight lines indicate males, while those lines that slightly slope indicate the females.

Miscarriages are indicated by minute perpendicular crossed lines. (Illustration 54.) Difficulty in child-birth or delicate children are indicated by a minute island at the beginning of the upright line indicating the child.

With regard to these lines there has always existed a great deal of misunderstanding. They do not indicate the number of children that the subject *will* have, they indicate the number of children the subject *could* have. I have observed five or six lines indicating children in the hands of spinsters. Scientifically, these lines merely indicate the extent of fertility, therefore if you examine



### No. 15. RESISTANCE LINES

The lines marked A, which are found on the Mount of Venus running parallel with the Life line are indications of some resistant activity of the body, generally brought into being by some weakness. In this case this weakness is betrayed by the islands in the Life line. The lines marked B, are called Marriage lines, and the perpendicular lines above, marked C, are indications of children. These indicate the extent of fertility.

## Minor Psychological Indications

the hand of a moral spinster and see three or four of these lines indicating children—be careful, it only means that she could bear only four children—it is the extent of her fertility. Should she marry, by employing contraceptive methods, she could avoid having even one. In the case of married people, or for that matter unmarried, the lines that are ever so slightly thicker, slightly more definable, are the lines that tell of the children that have been born. A deal of practice is necessary before the student can be proficient enough to distinguish the difference.

Islanded formations are important. The island is formed by a line splitting into a fork and then joining the main line again. This formation is supposed to indicate periods of adversity or to indicate adverse circumstances operative in the subject's life. Indirectly, this is correct, for islanded formations generally betray some psychological defect existing in the individual that affects the material aspect of the life.

Islands in the Head line, when formed as a series, indicate lack of concentration and general mental stability. Mental processes are, in such cases, invariably rapid but devoid of the ability to sustain concentrative mental effort.

Islands marked in the Life line indicate periods of delicacy of constitution; they betray the existence of some defect in the general health of the subject.

Where these islanded formations are like a minute chain, so that the Life line has a broken appearance, it is an indication of some serious deficiency in the chemistry of the blood; when there are islands in the formation of the Head line as well, it indicates an interference with the co-ordination of mental processes and physical executive action due to this chemical deficiency.

Islanded formations in the Health line will be dealt

## Minor Psychological Indications

with in a later chapter; these formations are only of value in making a diagnosis of health conditions.

When there are islands formed in the 'Fate' line it indicates some adverse period in the life, for which there is generally a psychological cause. This aspect is dealt with later.

Crosses, that is not just a chance crossing of lines but a definite clear and independent formation in the form of a cross, are said to indicate adverse conditions in the life. In considering the psychological value of these marks there is one position in which the cross can tell a great deal, relatively speaking.

It is where there is a clear cross formed just below the end of the Head line; this is an indication of some self-deception; such people do not like to face facts, particularly, of course, if those facts are in anyway distasteful to them, and they will often try to deceive themselves.

A clear cross on the Mount of Saturn is supposed to indicate a predestination of the individual life that is adverse. Actually this mark when in this position indicates an increased morbidity; it indicates a solemn and rather joyless type of person, the type of person who never sees any silver lining to any cloud.

A line that runs down from the Mount of Jupiter to touch the Life line at its beginning indicates an ambitious nature, particularly if the Mount of Jupiter is highly developed. This line accentuates the indications of the Mount, which alone indicate a desire for power.

Such secondary formations as the Star, the Grille, the Square and the Circle can be dismissed from any serious scientific psychological consideration. These marks exist, but they are generally accidental formations made by the chance composition of other lines.

Palmistry, as we all know, has for centuries been considered a means of foretelling the future with exacti-

## Minor Psychological Indications

tude. No exact observations on any large scale have hitherto been made, and too little attention has been paid by serious and enquiring minds to the psychological aspect of Hand Reading.

It is a fact that is slowly being realized by laymen that the greater part of the human mind is the subconscious. Freud, Jung, Pfister, Moll and others, have proved that the subconscious mind can give a reasonable explanation for many actions that are a mystery to the conscious. As these marks in the human hand are created by complex nerve reactions, subconscious mental activity can affect the hand as well as conscious thought or unconscious chemical activities.

It has been held as truth, that the lines of the hand are fixed and unalterable. This is not true, the lines of the hand do change; very often, admittedly, these changes are very minute, but they do take place. It has been, to my mind, definitely proved that people's lives are merely reflections of themselves; their mental abilities, emotional urges and general health conditions in a complex combination reacting to those circumstances and conditions in which the individual lives. Take, for example, the hand of any child of three years of age. The lines and palmar markings are complete; they can be read and they definitely define a certain trend of the life; they show certain definite abilities and tendencies—both latent and developing. Certain health conditions will exist.

Take another imprint in five or six years' time. A careful comparison with the original imprint will show certain changes.

Why?

Because in that interval of six years there will have been developments. Certain abilities and emotions will have developed; the health conditions may have altered.

## Minor Psychological Indications

The training that the developing mind has received will have caused certain faculties to become accentuated, and will have modified others. The child will have encountered certain childish adventures and happenings, and all these will leave their mark psychologically. The unconscious reactions may even have altered the trend of the whole life, as expressed in that line known by the horrible designation, which gives a very misleading association of ideas, of the 'Fate' line.

How then, you will ask, is this study to be of any great value in connection with the affairs of everyday life?

In innumerable instances clients have consulted me with regard to the success or failure of certain enterprises or concerning important private affairs. On being informed of the circumstances of their lives and the factors surrounding, or concerned with, their problem this information, in *conjunction with the data given by the hand*, has enabled me to give advice whereby the prospects of failure are either reduced or entirely eliminated.

In 1926, a client consulted me with regard to her health, which had been very indifferent for a long time. She had been under medical treatment for many months with little or no beneficial result. I could find, in her hand, no indications of any definite organic disease or any definable physiological cause for ill-health. There were very definite indications of worry and anxiety, while the condition of the nervous system showed a neurasthenic tendency. Finally I told her there was nothing physically wrong and asked her to give me the facts of her trouble. I told her it was sheer anxiety. Then she told me a story of domestic difficulty and an uncongenial atmosphere. She said that she had become depressed to the verge of suicide; in fact, she had seriously contemplated self-destruction. This was very interest-

## Minor Psychological Indications

ing. The imprint showed a 'Fate' line that was barred by a line cutting across it, which, according to the more superstitious aspect of palmistry, indicated the sudden termination of her career.

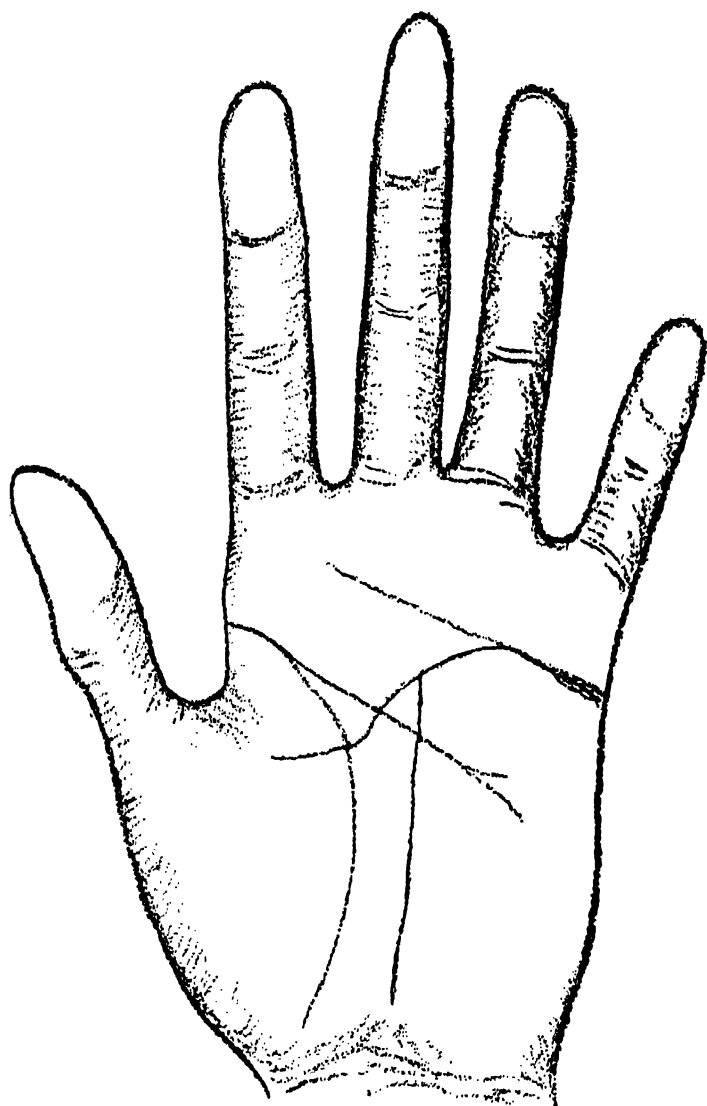
My contention, from scientific observations and psychological researches made, was that this 'Fate' line terminating thus suddenly, and evidently disastrously, merely indicated her mental state. True, a state of hopelessness, induced by an uncongenial atmosphere reacting on a sensitive nervous system, might well have produced this disaster finally.

I discussed, at great length and in detail, her domestic problem, her mental abilities, the general conditions of her life and its probable prospects. I then suggested a solution and a remedy—a complete change of environment and work. It meant her making a very big effort to break away from the hampering circumstances, but she left me with the promise to accept my advice.

Three years later she came to see me again. A fresh imprint was taken and on carefully comparing this with the one taken in 1926, I found marked alterations.

She had taken my advice and broken the chains of her domestic bondage, changed her occupation to one of a more congenial nature and had left her native town to start again. The result was definite and permanent improvement in her health; all depression had gone and she had succeeded in building up a successful career. The hand showed that there was no longer any danger of disaster, and that barring line had disappeared, while the 'Fate' line had travelled up the hand to indicate relative success.

So deeply ingrained in the stock of common knowledge is the superstitious idea that the hand betrays an immovable and individual destiny that it is very difficult to make people realize the fact that, within certain



No. 16. TAKEN WHEN IN DESPAIR

The above is a reproduction of the imprint taken in 1926. Observe the Fate line, which stops abruptly at the line running across.



## Minor Psychological Indications

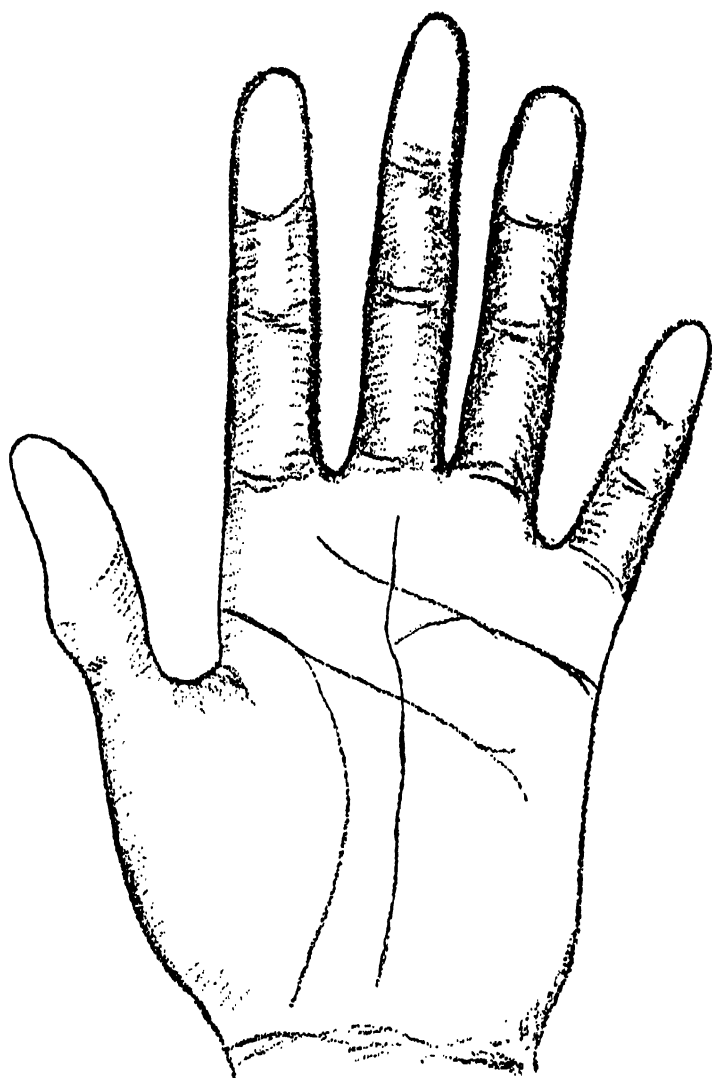
limits, we are masters of our fates and we can change these markings in our hands.

If your mental abilities fit you for accountancy or banking and you possess no other real ability, it is logical to assume that as an actor you would be a failure. If you possessed a highly strung and sensitive nervous system coupled with a claustrophobic complex; it would be correct to predict failure as an engineer whose duties were in some cabin surrounded by mighty clanking machinery. By applying logical deductive methods to the interpretation of the markings in the human hand it is possible to give advice relative to the selection of a career in the same way that a medical man makes a diagnosis.

I was lecturing recently on the importance of the psychological aspect of Hand Reading in relation to the selection of a vocational career, to an audience of business men. In proposing a vote of thanks one gentleman stated: 'In spite of the very convincing arguments that Mr. Jaquin has put forward in the course of his interesting lecture, I should never permit the futures of my children to be disturbed, or the natural course of their lives interfered with in any way by any psychological advice.'

Such an attitude is stupid. I presume that if one of his sons showed any signs of mental trouble he would take the lad to a doctor? Although he might prefer to let the 'natural tendency' of the life work out to a logical conclusion, blaming the child for crass stupidity; blaming Destiny for the lad's defects, rather than his own ridiculous obstinancy in not seeking skilled advice and treatment.

The careful examination of many thousands of hand impressions, taken at intervals of months or years, definitely prove that the lines of the hand are subject to



### No. 17. LATER HAPPY CONDITIONS

Acting on advice, this woman found more congenial surroundings in which she is happy and her whole mental outlook altered. The above drawing is a copy of an imprint taken three years later.

## Minor Psychological Indications

change. It has also become apparent that the majority of these changes are due to altered psychological and mental processes, or are due to some alteration in the health condition rather than being due to any alteration of actual material circumstances—which, hitherto, they were believed to portend.

The only really 'fixed' markings in the hand are the ridge patterns; these are used in the identification of criminals.

Of all sciences, that of Palmistry is, perhaps, the most unfortunate. For centuries it has struggled against the handicap of misuse and misunderstanding, and the blame cannot all be fairly laid at the door of those who, having made it a study, have sought to expound and practise their science. Men and women of all times have approached Palmistry from entirely the wrong angle, seeking not the sure knowledge it can, undoubtedly, impart, but extorting from it a prophetic vision which is beyond its powers.

It has been my experience that, wherever my profession has become known, the interest of the lay mind has almost invariably centred itself round such enquiries and questions as: 'When shall I get married?' 'Shall I marry a dark or a fair man?' 'Shall I be very successful in life?' 'Shall I have money left to me?'

It is quite possible to estimate the probability of a person marrying by estimating the type and quality of the sex urges plus the type of mentality possessed by the individual.

It is quite impossible, scientifically speaking, to state when a person will marry. The reason is obvious.

Presuming that there existed a marked attraction for one individual, with a created sense of ownership, and there occurred a periodic repetition of the sex act with that particular individual, it would show a definite mark-

## Minor Psychological Indications

ing in the hand. What difference would either a legal or religious ceremony make?

When one speaks of 'a palmist's warning', the mind, owing to the instinctive association of ideas, immediately projects on its mental screen a confused picture indicative of a mysterious and miraculous intervention. But when one speaks of a 'doctor's warning', the same association of ideas produces an entirely different picture. In reality they should be very similar.

The doctor predicts the course and ultimate issue of a disease, subject to the conditions he has found in the patient, and influenced by the known conditions and circumstances of his life. And this verdict is dependent upon the doctor's knowledge of the reactions of that particular disease to *all the other involved factors affecting the patient*.

So the scientific palmist is able to predict the course or trend of a person's life subject to certain conditions and circumstances, and involving a certain course of action or study, on the part of that person.

If you decide to deal with this tiresome aspect of the future, then I advise you to study the psychological aspect of the hand most closely and carefully, for in this you will find the key to so many difficulties, the solutions to so many problems and the difference between happiness and unhappiness, success or failure.

Maeterlinck, the sage, has said: 'Let us ever remember that nothing befalls us that is not of the nature of ourselves. If Judas go forth to-night it is towards Judas his steps will tend; let Socrates open his door and he shall find Socrates asleep on the threshold before him.'

These psycho-analytical studies, by means of the human hand, have proved this to be fundamentally true. Our fortune, our star, is within; it is ourselves. Events will flow into the mould of our character; a mould

## Minor Psychological Indications

originally given as a rough caste of inherited tendencies, which we unconsciously, for the most part, shape by our own efforts and thoughts. And for the results, especially if contrary to our expectations, we blame Destiny.

## Chapter VII

### Autobiographical

I have often been asked how and why I ever became interested in such a peculiar study as Palmistry. It is queer how small insignificant happenings often prove to have such far-reaching and important effects on our lives. It was a trifling thing that was to alter the whole course of my life.

At the age of twelve Christmas presents are joyfully anticipated, and most thankfully received. My twelfth Christmas is one that I have never forgotten. Among the many parcels that awaited me at breakfast was one from an uncle. My indignation and disgust are poignant memories; expecting at least some wild story of pirates or adventure I found, inside the carefully adjusted wrappings, a second-hand book on *Palmistry*, the original price of which was only one shilling and sixpence.

Naturally it was thrown on one side. I believe that I did dutifully thank this relative; if I did not, I do so now.

Two years later, for the want of something better to do, I read this little volume. At the age of fourteen most of us possess a desire to achieve something, to be able to do something better—or different—than anyone else. As I read this book it occurred to me that if the promise of the author was true I could become superior to the other lads of my age; the author promised the earnest student the ability to read the inmost secrets of anyone's life.

## Autobiographical

I became an 'earnest' student. I studied the instructions and illustrations of that book most carefully, and in due course considered that I was a fully qualified palmist.

I was to be very quickly disillusioned.

My mother was entertaining a member of her Church to tea; during this meal I rashly volunteered to read the old lady's hand. The offer was readily accepted. I told of a life of tragedy, a drunken husband and three poor children born to wickedness.

When I had *quite* finished the 'reading' I received a long lecture on the 'sin' of such studies. I was told that the Future was mercifully veiled from us, and the Past was buried in our memories, secrets that were locked from the world—and a great deal more in the same strain. I do not blame this charming old lady; she was evidently very justified, for I learnt, as soon as the door had closed on her departure, that she had sacrificed her life to the care of her widowed father, an old blind man. So my further palmistic studies were not encouraged by my family. The adolescent stage of an enquiring mind is always a very dangerous period; dangerous to others as well as to the developing individual. Very discouraged by the failure of my palmistic experiment I turned my attention to chemistry. This resulted in a serious explosion.

I then started the first Boy Scout troop in my district. I was too young to be a Scout Master, so as the troop prospered, one of the Sunday School teachers was appointed as Scout Master. Actively engaged in scouting I also became interested in Hypnosis and Clairvoyance. I conducted some successful experiments with the help of some of my fellow-scouts and the startling results only brought a 'wiggling' from the Scout Master who condemned my experiments as wicked and dangerous.

## Autobiographical

Eventually I decided that the only career for me was Medicine. I had acquired a collection of second-hand medical books, mostly very much out of date and therefore very cheap, bought with my odd pence. I cultivated the friendship of a local doctor who gradually took a real interest in me.

I succeeded in saving enough money to buy a second-hand microscope with four excellent lenses. My doctor friend showed me how to prepare, stain and mount specimens for microscopical examination; in fact, he often provided me with the necessary material. I had been given a room at the top of the house as a laboratory; it was here that I spent nearly all my spare time, dissecting dead rats, breeding bacteria and doing all sorts of dangerous things—but all the time learning a great deal. The family never bothered about my experiments unless some more than ordinarily disgusting odour emanated from my 'den', when various ultimatums were delivered. Only once was any investigation made, and to my secret joy the investigators retired hastily feeling more than a little sick. After that I was left more or less alone.

I managed to join the Queckett Society being, I believe, its youngest member; I received the kindly help of learned gentlemen. I then began to study seriously for Medicine.

The war came. I was lucky enough to obtain a commission in His Majesty's Navy as a sub-lieutenant R.N.V.R.

At the end of the war, in common with thousands of other youngsters, I found that altered economic circumstances had made it impossible for me to pursue my selected career. I had lost the most valuable years of my life.

All this time I had never lost my interest in hands.



## Autobiographical

I went into my father's business, but used every moment of my spare time in a serious study of the human hand. I disliked business intensely, much to my father's distress as the business was a very old one. I gradually became less and less interested in business until one morning I put on my coat and walked out—finished with buying and selling. I at once turned my attention to writing and my first article of importance appeared in the *London Magazine*, under the editorship of David Whitelaw, in January, 1925.

Many years before I had thought that, if there was anything at all in hand reading, a collection of the imprints of the hands of famous people would be of great value in many ways.

In 1922, I decided to make such a collection. With great temerity I approached the first victim for this, then non-existent, collection of famous hands—Bransby Williams. Mr. Williams was very nice about it all and kindly gave me the much desired imprints. I sent him a brief report on these and received in return a charming letter of thanks in which he said, 'Your reading interests me very much indeed. You are very correct *re* myself.'

This episode founded a lasting friendship with the famous Dickensian actor, in whose company I have spent many a delightful hour. It also gave me the courage to approach other well-known people and so lay the foundation of what is now a very extensive collection.

Soon after this I met the late Sir Edward Marshall-Hall, K.C., who gave me a great deal of encouragement and some valuable assistance in my studies. It was through an introduction from Marshall-Hall that I met the late Inspector Collins, who was then Chief of the Finger Print Bureau at Scotland Yard. Discussing finger prints with him I suggested that it would perhaps

## Autobiographical

be quite useful to take an imprint of the whole hand, certainly just as easy, while taking the finger-tips. I pointed out that such imprints might prove to be of definite psychological value. But he told me that the police were only interested in the question of identification. In 1929, I received a letter from William Stirling of the Straits Settlements Civil Service, whose work brought him in contact with various types of criminals. Later he came to see me in London. We discussed the various possibilities of scientific Hand Reading in relation to crime. He agreed that the imprint of the whole hand would be most useful.<sup>1</sup>

In one of the many letters that I received from Marshall-Hall, he expressed the opinion that, eventually, this scientific study of the hand would be of invaluable assistance to both the Law and Medicine.

I also owe a debt of gratitude to Professor Sir

<sup>1</sup> Since writing this book, I have received from William Stirling a monograph which he has just written: *Identification by the Palmar Surface (Le Palme Parle)*, dedicated to Dr. Locard, Director of the Police Technical Laboratory at Lyon. In this treatise he explains a method of palmar identification, and he says, 'For the technician in Criminal Research there still remains much to be deduced from the human hands which the process of time and thought will no doubt reveal . . . Certain cases have arisen where there were no finger impressions discovered on the scene of a crime, but a palmar impression was however available; here the excellent method of (Poroscopy) perfected by Dr. Locard, Director of the Police Technical Laboratory at Lyon has come to the rescue; this system however is one that calls for microscopic accuracy and experience . . . Hard manual work does not tend to produce a mass of lines as might be expected, for it is not uncommon to find an irregular network of lines running in all directions over the palms of those who lead quite an idle and indolent life. The three main lines often show certain definite peculiarities, among which are breaks, islands, chain and ladder-like formations, they also form distinctive angles . . . In many cases fine or hair lines are fugitive, they come and go very often in accordance with the health or nervous condition of the individual.'

This treatise will probably revolutionize the work of the European Finger Print Bureaus.

## Autobiographical

Arthur Keith, Conservator of the Museum of the College of Surgeons, famous as an anthropologist, who, although a sceptic as far as the claims of Palmists are concerned, gave me some kindly assistance in my very early medical studies before the war. I remember one day going into the College of Surgeons and having the cheek to ask to see Sir Arthur Keith. He saw me. I told him I wanted to know how the veins and arteries were injected in the prepared specimens in the College Museum. He took me up to the laboratory and gave instructions for my thirst for knowledge to be appeased. I have never forgotten that afternoon nor the pride I felt that such a great man should take so much trouble with an unknown youngster—even if he did want to know.

It was through an introduction given to me by Sir Arthur Keith that I met the late Sir James Galloway at the Charing Cross Hospital, who gave me permission to examine the hands of patients. A thing that was to prove of immense value to me in my researches on disease.

Much later, after I had talked with Sir Arthur about my palmistic studies in connection with disease, he wrote me a letter in which he said, 'Just you publish and teach what you have found to be true, whatever the opinion of the big-wigs or little-wigs may be of it.' Advice that I have faithfully endeavoured to carry out.

In June, 1927, I met John Reed Wade, who has occupied the Editorial chair of *Pearson's Magazine* for the last thirteen years. It is a popular belief that editors are a special brand of granite-hearted people, who work in their shirt sleeves and spend their time in throwing the manuscripts of starving writers into large wastepaper baskets. This is quite wrong; I have found that editors are really human.

## Autobiographical

The gods were very kind to me when they sent me, on that bright June morning, into the offices of C. Arthur Pearson & Co. For, although I did not realize the fact, I was at a very important point in my career. Two roads were open to me. I had to chose between the Superstitious and the Scientific aspects of my study. My whole inclination was for the scientific side. My dream was to see, one day, this study of the human hand ranking as a definite science, being used as an aid in the diagnosis of disease and to unravel the psychological tangles that so often bring disaster into human life.

There were many difficulties. For so long had palmistry borne the taint of charlatanism that little notice was taken of the serious student, and the temptation to pander to popular demand, and so to make money, was enormous.

So far I had resisted this temptation; my scientific researches had already received some slight encouragement from other editors. But this meeting with Mr. Wade was to turn my steps definitely in the right direction.

Mr. Wade is a sympathetic, shrewd and very intelligent man. As he looks at you, you are subconsciously aware of the kindly calculative assessment of no ordinary brain. I have never seen Mr. Wade angry; he seems to possess infinite patience. And so he listened to the long story of my work, hopes and ambitions. I suggested that an article on this scientific aspect of Hand Reading would be of interest to the readers of his magazine.

He asked me innumerable questions, questions that were both critical and shrewd. I felt very much as though I were under the cross-examination of counsel. He then suggested that I read the hand of an unknown person there in his office. I readily agreed, and a member of his staff was sent for, to become my victim. When

## Autobiographical

I had finished he turned, with a twinkle in his shrewd grey eyes, and said, 'Yes, that is very good guess work.' I did not know Mr. Wade then as well as I do now and I must confess I felt a little indignant at what I thought to be rather a cynical and unfair criticism.

It took some four or five interviews to convince Mr. Wade that there was something in Hand Reading after all. I remember explaining the indications of a supple thumb on the hand of a certain brilliant wit, ending my remarks with, 'So you see this supple thumb betrays the impetuous tendency that enables this man to have a ready answer for everything.'

Quite solemnly Mr. Wade remarked, 'No, Jaquin, that is wrong. Your thumb is quite straight.'

It was duly arranged that I should write an article for *Pearson's Magazine*, which was to be illustrated with the imprints of the hands of famous people, such as Professor Sir Arthur Keith, M.D., Sir William Orpen, R.A., Sir Edward Marshall-Hall, K.C., etc.—imprints from my now rapidly growing collection of famous hands. It was arranged that I should conclude this article with an offer to give a brief reading of the imprints of any readers' hands that were submitted.

This offer was to hold good for one month. Mr. Wade and I had discussed the probable number of hand impressions that would be sent in and we expected about four or five hundred imprints within the month. Within the first week over a thousand imprints were received, and by the end of the month I was literally buried under some ten thousand letters, boxes and parcels containing hand imprints. Sacks of letters poured into Pearson's offices from all over the world; their vans made mail deliveries every other day at my flat. Very soon I had a room stacked from floor to ceiling with unopened mail.

## Autobiographical

The scheme was, I plainly saw, to be of great scientific value, but was also likely to cost me a lot of money. I had employed a typist for some time, but it was quite hopeless to imagine that she would ever be able to type these brief reports. I had to engage five other typists. I could not employ any more, and I had to dictate my readings in relays. The original sum agreed upon for the article and any readings that might come in was, in the circumstances, quite inadequate. In spite of the fact that I had agreed to do this work for a certain sum Mr. Wade kindly, and very fairly, adjusted the financial side of the undertaking to our mutual satisfaction. For six months I dictated readings all day long, Saturdays and Sundays included.

On September 20th, 1927, the following notice appeared in the Personal column of *The Times*: 'Apology. So overwhelming has been the number of Hand Imprints sent in to *Pearson's Magazine* in connexion with their offer in the current number, that the Editor regrets that there must necessarily be some delay in dealing with them. He assures readers, however, that the hand readings are being dispatched with all possible speed.'

In due course the Editor and I received some thousands of letters of thanks and appreciation from those readers who had availed themselves of this offer.

The experiences and stories garnered in this first big piece of work would make very interesting reading. It certainly was a most difficult test, but the resulting letters proved it to have been most successful. Its value to me personally was enormous, as it was the means of bringing to me the imprints of people, particularly of other nations, whose lives had been full of strange happenings.

Having taken the imprints of a number of hands at regular periods, I had been able to prove that the hand

## Autobiographical

was subject to many changes during the course of a lifetime; and although these changes may be very minute they are none the less very important. I had found that adverse material circumstances in a person's life were very often the direct result of some psychological or physiological defect, and that their correction would often produce enhanced prospects of material success, consequently, alterations in the marking of the hand.

Early in 1929 I mentioned to Mr. Wade that the hand was subject to these changes and suggested that this fact would make an interesting and important article. He agreed and, quite rightly, he demanded proof. He has constantly pointed out to me that it is often quite an easy matter to prove a thing to the expert, but that it is often a very different matter to prove the same thing to the layman—particularly when dealing with such a complex subject as the human hand within the restricted space of a magazine article. He therefore demanded imprints of the same hands taken at different periods, where these changes were clear and obvious.

As I have many thousands of imprints of cases of interest on my files, I had to spend some days going through these files carefully to select the clearest possible imprints. I was able to place before my editorial friend a series of imprints that convinced him that my contention was correct.

We were then faced with another difficulty. A great deal of the evidence, the alterations in the fine lines of the hand, would be lost in any ordinary photographic reproduction in a magazine. I suggested micro-photographs. This suggestion was adopted, and the article appeared in the November issue, to result again in thousands of imprints of hands being sent to me.

It may interest the student to know that to get these micro-photographs it was necessary to get a strong light

## Autobiographical

*behind* the section of the imprint to be photographed. I lightly oiled the imprints, the oil making the paper semi-transparent, so that a strong diffused light could be placed behind the imprint to illuminate that particular section of the imprint to be reproduced.

During the whole time that I had been interested in the human hand I had always paid special attention to the possibility of the hand being of use as an aid in the diagnosis of disease. And after some years of close study I became convinced that the hand did most definitely give indications of developing disease conditions and also showed inherited predispositions for disease when other, and more orthodox methods, were useless.

I had, after a deal of difficulty and the production of very definite proof, interested a number of medical men in my studies, and some of these have actively assisted me in my research work; some have since co-operated with me in research work. One doctor recently told a colleague, with whom he was discussing my work, that he had been waiting for three years for me to make a mistake in a diagnosis. I do not wish this to be taken as proof that I *always know the cause of the trouble*; when I am uncertain or baffled I say so. Nor do I *always* tell the client the truth; in certain cases, it is much better that they should not know what is wrong with them. In this direction you must use great tactfulness and be very discreet.

Feeling, however, that I was in possession of sufficient knowledge to justify such an offer, I suggested to Mr. Wade that an article on the health aspect of the hand would prove both interesting and valuable. Particularly as this was an aspect of hand reading that had never before, to my knowledge, been scientifically explored and dealt with seriously.

I proposed to explain in this article how the human



## Autobiographical

hand showed warnings of developing disease, and how it was possible to detect important chemical changes, often slowly taking place in the body, which would predispose the body to the invasion of certain types of micro-organisms hostile to life.

There was much more difficulty in getting this proposition accepted. I am sure that without the proof, furnished by the previous articles, of my ability to read so much from the hand, this suggestion would never have been considered for one moment.

Imagine the worry and anxiety that might so very easily be caused, and very likely caused unnecessarily, by carelessness. Suppose, as actually did happen, a medical man was to send the imprints of a patient's hands, or a husband had sent the imprints of his wife's hands, and my diagnosis had been quite wrong?

*I had to be quite sure, I must not make mistakes.* I had also to avoid causing unnecessary misery and anxiety.

It is easy to see how such an offer bristled with pitfalls, difficulties and dangers, unless I was quite certain of my facts. For after all, all that I had to base my opinions on was an imprint of the hand—imprints often very badly made or blurred and damaged by insecure packing in the post—the sex, and the age of the sender.

Eventually this suggestion was accepted; the article appeared and the usual rush of imprints followed its publication. The letters that followed the dispatch of the brief reports were awaited with interest. What I had suspected might happen, did happen. It appeared that a doctor had sent the imprints of a patient's hands, and under the patient's own name, asking my opinion of the health condition.

This case was a peculiar case of suspended tubercular activity. I, of course, knew nothing of this until I received a charming letter from the doctor concerned;

## Autobiographical

in this letter he says that he had doubted the ability of anyone to make any such diagnosis merely from an imprint of the hand; he ends his letter, 'Your diagnosis entirely agrees with mine.'

Another doctor wrote, having received a brief report from me, 'You will be gratified to know that your readings are wonderfully correct; much more so than any guess work could have obtained.'

Yet another wrote, 'I feel I must write and tell you what an accurate result you have produced, and I will admit that I was rather sceptical about your process, but what you have told me is perfectly true.'

I found one set of imprints that showed very definite signs of a developing diseased condition that, unless quickly treated, would result in a very serious illness. I advised this woman to consult a specialist. Some little time later I received a letter from her in which she says, 'I had never had a day's illness, but on your advice I have consulted a specialist and it will interest you to learn that his diagnosis coincides with yours.'

It is not in any spirit of boastfulness or braggadocio that I quote the above samples of the type of letters received from the readers of this magazine. It is merely to show that the results, these letters, prove beyond all doubt that the hand does show not only character and mental ability, but health conditions.

I certainly have to thank Mr. Wade, not only for having the courage to accept these articles from my pen, but also for his helpfully shrewd and kindly criticisms; for the many good-humoured arguments, which have proved to be valuable to me—a good argument, if intelligently conducted, is an education—and for the advice and encouragement that he has given me in the preparation of this book. Although much has been done, much more remains to be accomplished.

## Autobiographical

It is very surprising the amount of detail that can be obtained by the expert merely from the shape of the hand; the actual shape of the fingers, thumb and size of the actual palmar surface betray the character very accurately and give certain indications of general health conditions.

During the autumn of 1928 I was, one morning, telling Leonard Crocombe, the Editor of the famous weekly paper, *Tit-Bits*, about my work. I recounted a number of cases where the information which the hand supplied had proved of definite material value to the individual.

Mr. Crocombe has occupied the Editorial chair of *Tit-Bits* for fifteen successful years. He is a brilliant journalist, a man of kindly sympathy, with a quick, shrewd and very critical mentality. His mind works very rapidly, he never does things slowly; he often has completed the working details of a scheme while other people are still wondering if it is even workable. He works, by force of habit, at enormous pressure. In spite of the vast amount of work involved in editing a weekly paper like *Tit-Bits*, he can still find time to write himself and cram into the long day of a successful journalist one or two important social engagements.

He suggested that an article on my work would be acceptable for his paper. I then suggested that a brief report could be given on the outline of the hand, a report that would be psychologically accurate which would discover any marked defect of character or any marked health tendencies. This article and hand reading offer was launched in January, 1929.

The response to the previous articles in *Pearson's Magazine* had been alarming; the response to the offer in *Tit-Bits* was staggering. Between eight and nine thousand letters arrived in the first week. At the end of

## Autobiographical

three months' continuous work I found that I was some weeks behind in my replies; there were literally sacks of letters from all over the world piled in my study unopened. So a slight alteration was made in the conditions of this offer which checked the wild rush of correspondence. The work involved in dealing with this continuous stream of outlines was terrible. Eventually I was able to 'catch up' with this vast mail. I received, and am still receiving, letters of thanks and appreciation from the readers of this paper.

I had agreed to answer one question or to give advice on any definite problem that the reader cared to place before me. It is very interesting to note how intelligent the vast majority of these questions were. While the problems were given concisely and clearly, remarkably few were of the involved rambling type of statement.

I had always regarded the way in which the printed word can travel as a sort of modern miracle. But the correspondence that resulted from these articles of mine astounded me. It came from all over the world, from Peking and Iceland, from India and Siberia, from people of all kinds, conditions and nationalities. And apart from the proof it has given of the practical value of a scientific survey of the hand, it has furnished very valuable scientific data on the human hand.

Naturally, among such a vast number of letters there would be a number of very amusing epistles. One lady sent me a very blurred imprint made with ordinary ink, and she said, 'I am sending you a form of imprint. I had no *invisible* ink at hand.'

It was an occasional letter of this type that tickled one's sense of humour and helped to lighten the day's work.

Another type of enquiry that is of the 'impossible'

## Autobiographical

type is this, 'Can you please tell me where my step-sister, Agnes, is? If dead, where she died?'

A gentleman residing on the Gold Coast wrote to me as follows: 'I shall be very pleased if you will be very kind enough to forward me a list of powders and pills for learning or anything that help men to develop in education. I wish to be complete educated man but no help as a man's brain is to be manured or polished when he takes *is* vocation on education.'

Another correspondent, obviously unacquainted with the use of the English language writes: '*I am very rather ill, almost never, but I do not enjoy of super-abondent energie to accomplish thinks, and when I have it I lost the same without knowing how to keep one part and to employ the other. The caracter it seems that I always will to perfect myself but I never arrive. I have not a good concentration that is to say in an easy way, and when I have it it seems to me that I shall soon arrive—and then I lost it. I do not know in what centre or idea to put my mind to go on without awakening wee points of the others. I also feel to do some good to the others. I am in need to cultivate my brain and for one think or another I never engage myself . . .*', and so the writer rambled on for three or four pages. But I *did* reply, although my reply was probably almost as involved as the query.

A letter from Africa produced the following 'knotty' problem: 'The problem I want answering is this. When I chose the girl I wished to marry my relatives advised me if I did marry that lady none of my offsprings would ever survive, as there was a relative in the girl's family who is a witch and would cause the death of my children through witchcraft. I did marry this girl and have had five children by her, but unfortunately all have died. Is this mere coincidence or is this relative the real cause?'

Naturally my work brings me into contact with all

## Autobiographical

kinds of people, I hear many strange stories and I hold many secrets. My work is essentially confidential. The secrets that are confided to me are not mine—I even try to forget them and sometimes this is rather a difficult matter.

It has very often been suggested to me that I miss so much in life by knowing so much of people. I am sure that I miss very little, as my work has trained me to see more than most people; true I often see stupidity, shallowness and the haunting pride of the weak. But these psychological studies enable me to know the cause—and often to make allowance for seeming faults. After all none of us is without blemish.

Comedy and tragedy file through my consulting room in an endless procession and one of the first lessons I learnt is—appearances are very deceptive.

One day a woman came to consult me. As she walked into my study she looked the very personification of purity and innocence. Her dress was very simple—but very good. Her eyes were of the wide innocent, questioning type of blue eye, while her complexion was perfect—one of those faces that defies any assessment of age. When she spoke her voice was low, refined and with a 'velvety' quality of tone that was most pleasing.

When she had removed her gloves and placed her hands before me I received a shock; this innocent refined-looking woman possessed the most terrible hands I have ever seen; they betrayed a mind that was not only criminal but incredibly evil. Her story would make ghastly reading.

When I had finished my analysis and had answered her questions, she looked straight at me and said, 'Had I known that you could have seen so much in a hand I would never have come to you, Mr. Jaquin.'

Another thing that my work has enabled me to dis-

## Autobiographical

cover is the astounding number of people who do not see the obvious—the majority of human minds seem to function on one or two set lines of thought. Fresh angles of thought are rejected. A great many people do not like to have their cherished beliefs disturbed, they would rather believe a falsehood than accept a truth if it meant a reorganisation of personal philosophies or opinions.

If the whole aim and object of my work is to make this despised study called Palmistry, a definite science that will be of practical value to humanity, I have by no means exhausted its possibilities.

I shall feel amply rewarded for the labour of writing this book if I shall have sufficiently interested a few intelligent men and women in the human hand, so that they will continue these researches that can never, in the span of one lifetime, be completed.

And I have now answered that often asked question, ‘Why did you become interested in hands?’ An insignificant gift and a thirst for knowledge.

## *Chapter VIII*

# The Signposts of Destiny

## The Superstitious Aspect



A question that is often asked, and that is so difficult to answer, without involved explanations, is: 'Can Palmistry Foretell the Future?'

It is this aspect of hand reading that has been mainly responsible for its evil reputation. Commercial mag-nates tell us that they have won success by supplying a definite demand. In the same way, palmists have taken their knowledge to the best market and, some sincerely and some otherwise, have told fortunes from the lines in the hand. In this way, palmistry had earned for itself a very bad name, its professors being regarded as char-latans, whose object is to fleece a gullible public. So palmistry has become the Cinderella of the sciences. But, in spite of all, it remains a science, and an exact one. That each line and mark in the human hand is formed by some mental or physical attribute, there is not the slightest doubt. It is equally certain that our knowledge of the significance of these lines has steadily progressed, till to-day, not only does a man's character stand clearly revealed by his hands, but his health, past, present and to come, are there to be read by all who have the requisite skill and knowledge.

It is also accepted as a scientific fact that mind moulds matter; it is naturally an unconscious process, but that it is operative is easily proved.



## The Signposts of Destiny

We know that some people have thumbs which are short and thick; others possess thumbs thin, long and supple. Here we find a mental quality expressing itself in the moulding of living matter. People with short, thick thumbs are always inclined to be obstinate, while the long supple type of thumb is expressive of a flexible mentality and a generous impetuosity.

As the markings of the human hand are created by conscious and subconscious thought processes the indications of the future become personal estimations of probabilities, which may, or may not, be correct.

It has been definitely proved that the subconscious mind has a truer and greater knowledge of probable events and their material consequences than the conscious mind. After all, the conscious mind is merely a minute point jutting out of the vast sea of the subconscious.

The activities of this subconscious mind are really little understood, but from the knowledge that we have at the moment, it is very probable that we shall find that this is the source from which emanate so many things believed, by a great number of people, to belong to the supernatural.

The psychological researches of Freud, Jung, Pfister, Moll and others, have proved that the subconscious mind can give a reasonable explanation for many actions that are a mystery to the conscious. These palmistic observations have proved very definitely that the conscious mind affects the markings of the hand, therefore it is, in my opinion, logical to assume that the hand can be affected by subconscious mental activities.

An astrologer friend of mine recently told me that the whole course and events of a life are definitely cast in the first six hours of existence. If this is true then we are merely pawns and free-will does not exist. So no praise is due to the Saint and no blame must be attached

## The Superstitious Aspect

to the Sinner. If you save or destroy life; if your deeds be either good or evil, the fault is not yours. To accept this astrological hypothesis is to become fatalistic, and to be a fatalist is to embrace a philosophy that is enervating. My work has brought me in close contact with peoples of many nations. We know that the fatalistic philosophy flourishes in the East. I have received innumerable letters from this part of the world, and it is interesting to note that nearly all their writers imagine it is possible to forecast the whole of the life, even with such minute details as the woman they will marry, the number of children they will have, the sex of the children and their ultimate occupations; the manner, date and place of their wife's death and their own, etc.

I was recently consulted by an Indian student from one of our Universities, a wealthy and apparently intelligent young man. He was not interested in his abilities, his psychological make-up or his health. He wanted to know what would happen to him. I very patiently, and at great length, explained how a man's life was merely a reflection of himself. That if he entered an occupation for which he was unsuited, mentally or physically, he was creating a predisposition to failure. I explained that women would exert a bad influence over his life—if he was highly sexed, impulsive and lacking in mental control. I quoted cases where the correction of a psychological defect had altered the whole trend of a life, bringing happiness and averting failure.

When I had finished he calmly turned and said, 'No, it is all wrong. Our astrologers can foretell the whole of a person's life; it is fixed and definite.'

Although I showed him imprints proving the altered trend of a life by individual effort he persisted in his idea of a fixed destiny. I refused his fee and politely terminated the interview.

## The Signposts of Destiny

At the moment there is no satisfactory scientific explanation as to how or why, certain marks should appear in the hand, particularly those markings which are supposed to indicate accident, the sudden acquisition of wealth or any other happening that is, so far as we know, outside the normal knowledge of the mind. There are some very interesting hypotheses, but no exact proof.

I have proved, however, that where adverse circumstances are indicated, the cause can often be found either in the health or psychological aspect.

I strongly maintain, therefore, that no palmist can foretell, with accuracy, what the future will be *except under definite given conditions and circumstances*.

The main value of this superstitious aspect of hand reading is this—it *indicates* the trend of the life and if this trend is unfavourable, then some very definite cause can be found either in the circumstances surrounding the life of the individual or in the individual himself. Thus, it is open to correction and consequent improvement.

It is often stated that this knowledge of the hand is a 'psychic gift', a form of clairvoyance. Some Palmists do possess this faculty, but it is by no means necessary to one's success as a reader of hands; in fact, it is my opinion that one is better without any such faculty.

I have often been accused of using clairvoyance. I have always said that if this were true then it would be impossible for me to mark with pencil the tell-tale lines in an imprint.

I have spent some years in a close scientific study of psychic activities of all kinds. And it is my opinion that clairvoyance is merely a magnification of the normal faculty of intuition. Clairvoyance is often startlingly accurate, and often entirely wrong—it is just unreliable.

One evening I was discussing this problem with the

## The Superstitious Aspect

late Sir Edward Marshall-Hall, when he told me that many years ago a clairvoyant foretold the whole of his life in minute detail which, in the course of time, proved to be accurate. The same day the same clairvoyant gave a reading for a friend, but not one prediction proved to be correct.

While it is true that we are surrounded by many forces that we do not understand, and that undoubtedly a number of these do affect us personally and individually, I consider that it is the height of folly to act upon any advice emanating from any such little understood sources; that is, to accept advice for which there is no material reason or basis. We live in a mundane sphere of existence, therefore we must apply mundane methods to the guidance of our lives.

It can be far more reasonably argued that the hand is able to foretell one's future health, for on numerous occasions I have been able to warn clients that certain bodily ills, of which they were totally unaware, were looming in the near future. But even here there is nothing miraculous or 'psychic' if the hand, bearing numerous nerve endings sensitive to toxins, shows at a very early stage the initial signs of disease likely to develop later; unless certain precautions are taken, or which, unknown to the individual, have developed to a point beyond prevention. Such a development of ill-health might quite easily exert a very adverse effect on the material aspect of the life.

An interesting case is shewn in Illustration 18. In 1927 I was consulted by a business man who by his own unaided effort had built up a very big and successful business. He told me that through no fault of his own financial ruin was immediate and, so far as he could see, there was no hope of any financial recovery.

The Fate line, which is the line running up the centre

## The Signposts of Destiny

of the hand, shows a long narrow island preceding a definite and complete break in the actual line. The islanded formation indicates a period of anxiety, while the actual break in the line indicates, in this case, disaster.

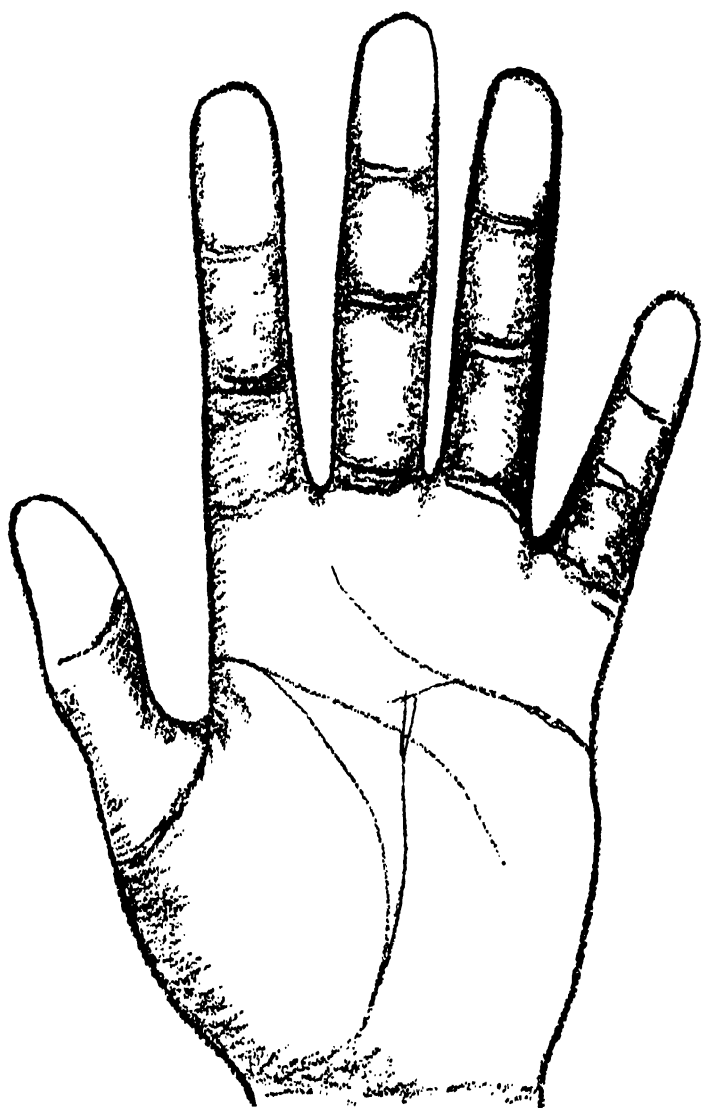
A careful examination of the hand revealed the fact that this man was ill; years of strain had sapped his vitality, a slight minor infection had completed the collapse. He was, and had been for some time, unknown to himself, incapable of using his brain properly; this general debility had destroyed his sense of perspective.

I asked him for the actual facts of his difficulty. He gave them to me and, as I had suspected, these were by no means as serious as he imagined. I very tactfully pointed out to him that he was, owing to this unsuspected health condition, grossly exaggerating the seriousness of his position. I advised a short rest, some medical treatment and care; under these circumstances I promised him that he would find that the troubles could be very easily surmounted. He took my advice.

Two years later he came to see me again. A fresh imprint was taken; this is reproduced in Illustration 19, and shows clearly that the situation was saved. The Fate line continues in an broken line up the hand.

From my previous remarks it might appear that this aspect is without any real use, but as the above case proves, without the discovery of the real cause and the necessary treatment and recuperation, it is easy to see how disaster might actually have materialized.

Early in 1928, I met, at the flat of Hannen Swaffer, the late Sir Henry Seagrave. Discussing motor racing with him, he told me that he had given up racing. A little while later I received the imprints of his hands, so I knew nothing of his contemplated attempt to recapture the speed record. In the palm of his hand I was startled



No. 18. HEALTH AFFECTING THE LIFE

The above is a copy of an imprint taken in 1927. Observe the Fate line, split and fading, indicating anxiety due to nerve disturbance.

## The Signposts of Destiny

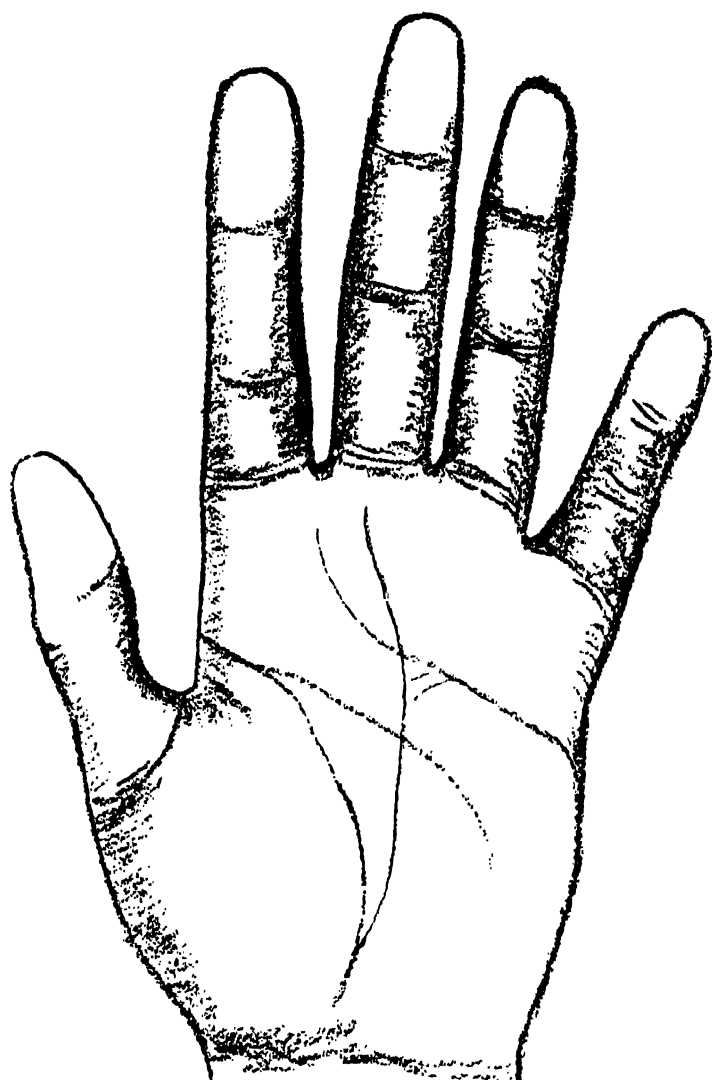
to see a marking which is recognized as an indication of the danger of sudden and violent death. After some hesitation I pointed this out to Sir Henry. He telephoned to me the next morning and informed me that preparations were just completed for his attempt on the speed record, and that the *Golden Arrow*, the machine he was to drive was in the last stages of construction.

Well, as all the world knows, the attempt was entirely successful, and in the middle of 1929 I had the pleasure of again receiving imprints of the hands of Sir Henry Seagrave. I was not surprised to find that the indications of the danger of death had practically vanished. After all, what man can contemplate driving a car at two hundred and forty miles an hour without any consideration of the probability of an accident? A confidence so serene that it could not consider death in such circumstances would be rare indeed. And Sir Henry Seagrave was no mad enthusiast, he was far from being reckless, he was too thoughtful and intelligent.

In this second imprint I found that another mark had *grown* which indicated sudden death in the middle of 1930. I had a long talk with Sir Henry about this, and he promised to be careful. Unfortunately, in this case, the indications proved to be tragically correct.

In January 1930, a highly placed naval officer consulted me with regard to his health and its prospects. Discussing the markings of the hand afterwards, he confessed that he was very interested in the subject. The conversation somehow drifted to this aspect and accidents, and I said, 'It may interest you to know that there is a mark in your hand showing danger of an accident about the middle of June of this year.'

He came back to see me in September, when a fresh imprint of his hand was taken. This particular mark had practically disappeared. I pointed this out to him;



No. 19. TWO YEARS LATER

An imprint taken two years later, after medical treatment and rest, revealed restored health conditions, which enabled the material difficulties to be overcome. The Fate line goes straight up the palm.



## The Signposts of Destiny

then he said, that it might interest me to know that in the middle of June, on the Portsmouth road, he had one of the narrowest escapes from death that he had ever had in his life.

At the beginning of 1930 I was examining the hand of a mining engineer. I found indications of sudden death in the immediate future. We discussed this at some length, and I said, 'There is no evidence, no direct evidence, as to how such marks can possibly mean anything, but I think that there is enough evidence to warrant care being taken when such marks are clearly shewn.'

Some months later I received a letter from his friend in South Africa, telling me that as this man had told him of his visit to me and of the discussion we had, it might interest me to know that this very man had been killed in a mine accident just after his return to Africa.

Some time ago I was examining the hand of an army officer. He told me that he was retiring in a few weeks' time and he wanted to know if it would be wise for him to retire to a country life, if his temperament was suited to such a life.

I said, 'Yes, undoubtedly the life of a country gentleman would suit your temperament, particularly if you occupy your mind with literature. You possess too active a brain to remain idle without some bad effect on the general health following such idleness. But it may interest you to know that, according to the superstitious aspect of hand reading, you will not retire. This shows that you will be given a fresh command with greater responsibilities.'

I told him that I was very much interested in his case, particularly as any logical calculation of probabilities was entirely against this happening, and he promised to let me know. Some three or four weeks later I received a

## The Superstitious Aspect

letter from this client, wherein he told me that these indications had proved to be amazingly correct, he was then on his way to take up his new command.

J. W. Dunne, in his book *An Experiment with Time*, gives details of many experiments with the subconscious mind whereby he was able to obtain details of events unknown to the conscious mind, in many cases, before the events actually happened. There can be no doubt that the subconscious mind possesses powers much greater than we, at the moment, can imagine. It is able to achieve feats of calculation that, to the conscious mind, are impossible, mysterious and uncanny. In spite of this, the subconscious mind is no wizard; it works, like most other things in this Universe, upon the set lines of logic and reasoning. It is a mathematician of the highest order. Hence, it is reasonable to presume that, in some cases, by its powers of calculation the subconscious mind is able unconsciously, and in opposition to conscious thought, to mark the advent of success or failure before either are reached.

Evidently, from the evidence, it may be able to include in its calculations factors unknown or unrecognized by the conscious mind, and this Fate line, the most mysterious of all the lines in the hand, may be the particular and individual production of this inner knowledge, and the unknown forces dwelling within ourselves. Even if this is true it does not alter the fact that, in the vast majority of cases, a careful examination of the hand will generally reveal the fundamental causes of either failure or success; they are so deeply seated in ourselves; and the material translation of these 'urges' results in, and is responsible for, our actions.

Lives that are immutably predestined are, seemingly, extremely rare; such cases as, for example, the case of

## The Signposts of Destiny

the Frenchman, Lesurque. Lesurque, although innocent, was condemned to death and executed in spite of the superhuman efforts made on his behalf by friends and relatives. Every action, every word, every gesture made in his defence seems to have added to the weight of the frail evidence against him. The action of his friend Legrand, in correcting a clerical blunder, set the seal on the evidence that was to send an innocent man to his death.

Truly the history of the Lesurque case makes terrible reading. It seems that this man could do nothing to help himself. He was, apparently, predestined to die on the gallows. Lesurque seems to have been the helpless victim of some malicious God. Nor does this historic case of Lesurque stand alone; the number of such examples of abnormal fatality can be extended to a long list; the pages of history are strewn with such cases.

In the more common realms of ordinary life it is, I have observed, far more common to find points in a life when the individual stood at the cross-roads. It is at these moments that Destiny is decided. But by whom or what?

Is there some force in the outer void that decides for us?

Is there some planned scheme, that we, knowing nothing of, must unconsciously conform with or suffer?

Why does one man die a Saint while another suffers on the gallows?

It is so easy to ask questions, but it is often another matter to answer them.

Is it not true that Destiny, in the moments of crisis, when she is questioned answers from within?

Is not the road chosen by the man himself?

Do not the inner forces hold council and choose the only road they can see?

A mean cowardly character, faced with two alterna-

## The Superstitious Aspect

tives, one mean and cowardly, the other high-minded and sacrificial?

Which will he choose?

Would not the mean cowardly character be blind to the possibilities of the higher, and perhaps, harder road?

After all, some people never see any beauty in life. You will find in such cases that there is no beauty within themselves. It takes a poet to appreciate and understand poetry, and only a musician can appreciate music.

You will find that the more human lives and hands that you examine intimately, the more clearly will you see the faint workings of Destiny. And so the fundamental psychological composition of the individual will assume an increasing importance.

When it is widely realized that this 'superstitious aspect' of hand reading, as shewn by the formation of the Fate line, only indicates, at the most, the *trend of the life* and that its events are subject to alteration by conscious effort, it will then become a very valuable adjunct to the more serious psychological and medical aspects of our study.

I have just finished dictating a report on the imprints of a young girl's hands. The Fate line in this hand showed a most unsatisfactory future. But it was not necessary to look even so far. The lack of psychological balance alone promised that. In this report I have told her mother of the defects that exist and have pointed out that if they are corrected the material prospects of the life are to be considerably enhanced. And they *can* be corrected.

So much damage and worry has been caused by the ignorant and ill-timed statements of unscrupulous palmistic practitioners. Recently I had a letter from a woman who said that she had been told that she would commit suicide in two years' time; she had been told

## The Signposts of Destiny

that the mark was in her hand. I assured the woman that this was all nonsense; that such a statement not only proved the palmist's complete ignorance, but proved that she was a fool.

Even if there had been, which there was not, a suicidal tendency, who but an idiot would make such a bald statement to the individual?

There is no mark that indicates *definitely* death by suicide. That is, you cannot take any suicide's hand and say, 'This is the mark that *predestined* this person to suicide.'

It has also been stated that a circle on the Mount of Luna predicts death from drowning. I have never seen such a mark.

Some months ago a client rather startled me by asking, 'Shall I ever commit murder?'

It transpired that he had been told that towards the end of his life he would commit murder. I was considerably puzzled as to why such a statement had ever been made.

After a tactful cross-examination I elicited the information that just before he had paid this visit to the 'Egyptian', he had caught a piece of the palmar flesh in some pliers. This left a small spot of congealed blood. I am afraid I laughed. But I explained that this had been taken for the black mark supposed to indicate the murderer—sheer stupid nonsense.

I have in my collection of hand imprints a number taken of the hands of murderers, but there was no black mark to indicate that they were guilty of this terrible crime, neither black nor any other colour. Murder, like any other crime, depends to a great extent upon circumstances and temperament.

Every one of us is a potential criminal, and we could all commit murder—if only in self-defence, but under

## The Superstitious Aspect

very varied circumstances. A low type, as most murderers are, would kill in anger, a type of bestial rage. The more intelligent, non-moral type, would kill in cold blood and would probably use poison or some subtle means of destruction thoughtfully considered to defeat detection.

If the psychological factors are ill-balanced, then they will produce ill-balanced thought processes and abnormal actions.

This line of Fate is that thread upon which Time has strung the pearls of superstition, and although in other directions many ancient beliefs are being discovered to have been, unknowingly, based upon some definite scientific fact, the formations of this line and their consequent interpretations are subject to doubt.

This line can be considered only when dealing with the hand in an exact scientific manner, as an indicator of the trend of the individual life.

This line seems to prove that:

‘There is a tide in the affairs of men  
Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune;  
Omitted, all the voyage of their life  
Is bound in shallows and in miseries,  
On such a full sea are we now afloat;  
And we must take the current when it serves  
Or lose our ventures.’

The Fate line is to be found running up the centre of the palmar surface of the hand.

The position of its start is of some importance; it can begin either on the inner side of the Life line near the wrist; actually in the centre of the hand at the wrist, or rising from the Mount of Luna.

Where the Fate line begins on the inside of the Life line it is supposed to indicate restriction in the early years of the subject's life. This formation indicates the

## The Signposts of Destiny

existence of some hampering circumstances over which the individuals has had little or no control, their career and their life, has been planned for them. They have not been able to exercise any choice in the path that they have travelled in these years.

At the point where the Fate line *leaves* the main Life line is the point where they were able to exercise, for the first time, some personal directive activities over their lives—the life *at this point* assumes a more independent line of activity.

Where the Fate line begins tied to the Life line, but not commencing actually on its inner side, it still indicates restriction in the early years, but a restriction that is not quite as cramping as when the Fate line begins on the inner side of the Life line. Where the Fate line begins actually in the centre of the palm down near the wrist, it indicates that the early years of the life have been under the subjects' control and that their career has been created by personal effort. Generally such people possess ambition, energy and initiative, which, applied with intelligence, ultimately results in success.

When the Fate line begins thus in the centre of the palmar surface it generally runs straight up the palm to beneath the second finger, *this proves the indications of its commencement*—that the life or career has been created by personal effort.

Where the Fate line begins on the Mount of Luna, it indicates that the personality of the individual has assisted the creation of the career, he has attracted the influence and the assistance of others. This formation is often found in the hands of those whose work brings them in touch with the public and whose success depends on the opinions of others, such as actors, preachers and professional men generally.

A Fate line that runs up the hand in a clear unbroken

## The Superstitious Aspect

line is comparatively rare. This formation is generally found in the hands of Civil servants, teachers and government officials—those people who possess 'safe' careers.

Such a formation indicates a career that is safe and free from any violent change, but which is not necessarily either brilliant or really successful

A Fate line that runs in an unbroken line up the hand indicates a career free from change and a career that is in the *personal opinion of the subject*, successful.

For you must bear in mind that success is very relative; what is success to one person is not by any means success to another. This explains why in the hands of some very unsuccessful people, as judged from ordinary worldly standards of success, the Fate line appears as a straight successful line.

I examined the hand of a tramp, a man who spent his time roaming from one casual ward to another, and I found a Fate line that went straight up the hand to the base of the second finger in an unbroken line. True there were very few other lines on the hand. This man was, from worldly standards, a miserable failure; but he had found his ideal of a successful life. Devoid of ambition, assured of food and shelter he considered that he was successful. He was certainly quite happy. Whenever there occur breaks in this Fate line it is an indication of change at the point of the break.

If the two ends of the broken line show a gap, this gap indicates the length of time between the finishing of one occupation or position and the resumption of work in another sphere of activity. The gap between these two ends of the broken line indicates a period of waiting, a 'dead' period in the active life of the individual. Where the two broken ends overlap, it is still an indication of change, but a change from one occupation to another without any period of uncertainty.



## The Signposts of Destiny

Islands in this line of Fate are indications of periods of difficulty and anxiety. The duration of the worry and difficulty is shewn by the length of the islanded formation.

Often you will find that this islanded formation ends in a break in the line: an indication that the period of difficulty was ended by a change of occupation.

Where the Fate line ends with a clear cross, and the line does not show thereafter, it is an indication of the danger of death from accident at that point.

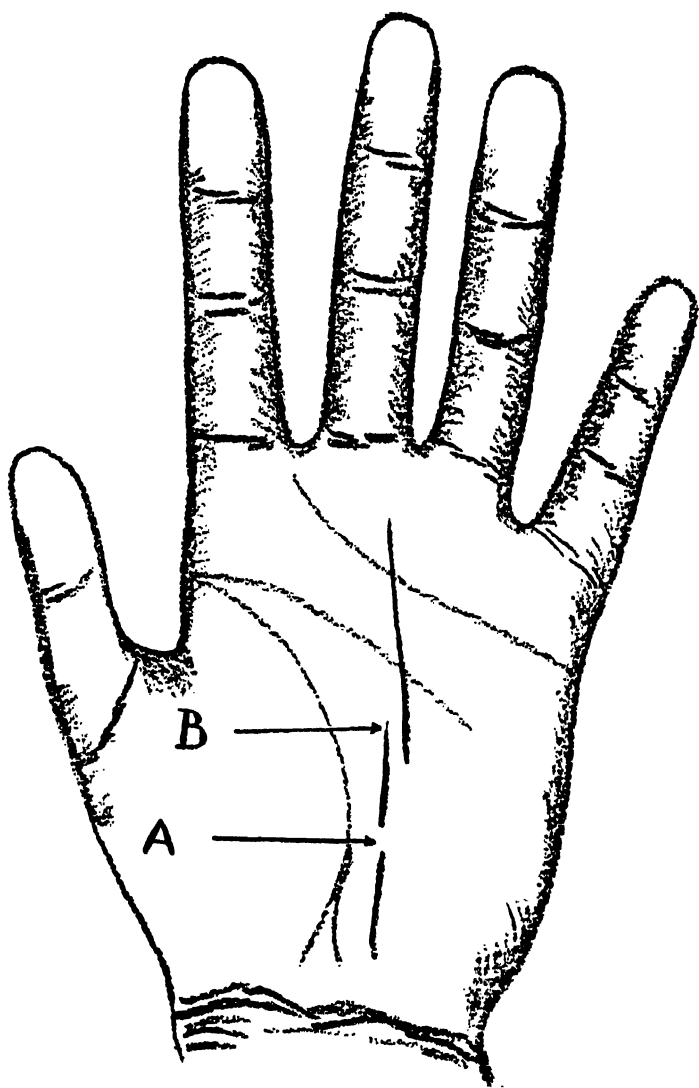
If, however, the line goes on after the cross, it then indicates danger of accident, but without danger of fatal results.

There are, in most hands, a number of fine lines coming over from the Mount of Venus across the Life line to touch the Fate line. These ray lines are indications of definite influences affecting the subject's life. By observing the formation of the Fate line *after it has been touched or crossed by one of these ray lines*, it is possible to gauge the effect of this influence.

A ray line, for example, comes across from the Mount of Venus to touch the Fate line, and on the Fate line an island is marked, which begins where the ray line touches—that is an indication of an adverse influence. An influence that has caused the subject a period of anxiety and difficulty.

If one of these ray lines is followed by a break in the Fate line then the influence is, perhaps, more serious. It causes change in the subject's life. If, however, the Fate line, after this break, is stronger and clearer than before then the influence causing the change has been of a beneficial character.

Where a ray line crosses the Life line, and in the actual ray line itself there is a small islanded formation it is supposed to indicate seduction at the date where it crosses the Life line.



#### No. 20. BREAKS

A complete break in the Fate line as marked A, indicates a period of uncertainty and change of occupation or circumstances of the life. A break as marked B, with the two broken ends overlapping, indicates a change, but without any marked period of uncertainty.

## The Signposts of Destiny

Where the Fate line runs straight up the hand to the base of the second finger, it is an indication of an even and satisfactory progression. But bear in mind, this formation is only an indication of an individual and purely personal estimation of progression to success.

Where the Fate line bends over, above the Heart line, towards the Mount of Jupiter beneath the first finger, it is an indication of some outstanding success; a success that gives authority over others. This formation is often found in the hands of very successful business men.

Where the Fate line bends over in the same way, but towards the base of the third finger, the Mount of Apollo, it is an indication of success of an artistic order.

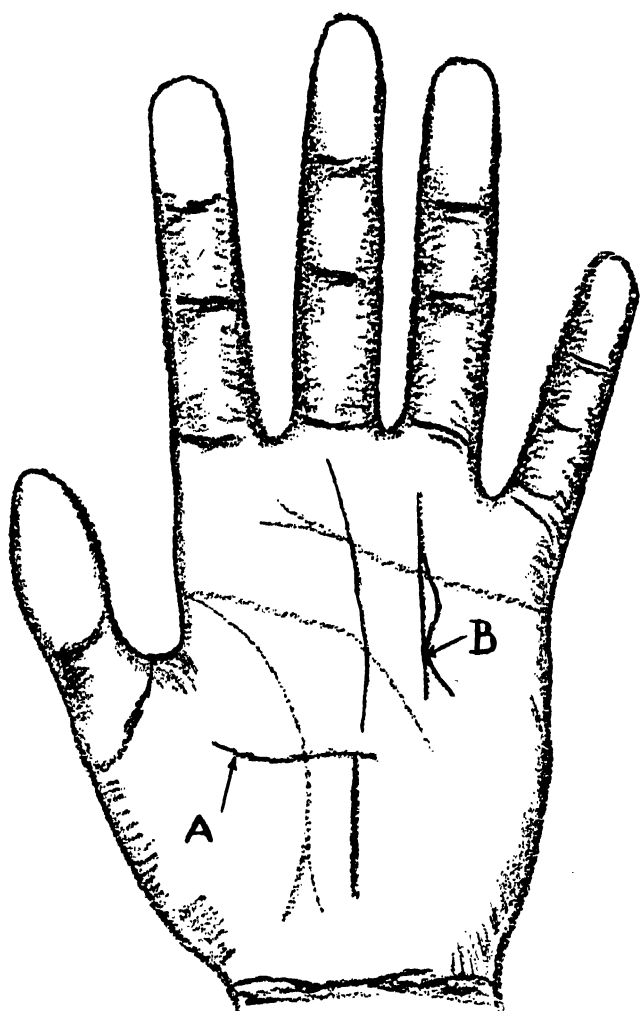
Often, above the Heart line, the Fate line seems to break into many small pieces. This formation is an indication of success but with an increase in interests; the interests of the subject's life are, in such cases, very varied. Often they are interested in more than one business undertaking.

Where the Fate line seems to split and runs up the hand thereafter as a double line it is an indication that, at the point where the line divides, the subject acquired or created another line of interest that could be taken as a second Fate line.

I found this formation in the hand of a man who, although engaged in business all day, had started a small mail order business which he ran in his spare time.

If, as often happens, the branch line grows stronger and the *main* Fate line fades away, then it is an indication that the secondary interest acquired or created, becomes, in due course, the main occupation and ultimate career of the subject.

The indications of this Fate line are accentuated and considerably affected by another line which is known as the line of Apollo. This line normally begins about



### No. 21. INFLUENCE LINES

A Ray line coming over from the Mount of Venus, as marked A in above illustration, followed by a break in the Fate line, is the cause of the change and uncertainty indicated by the gap in that line. The Influence line, B, running up to join the Apollo line, which is after the junction islanded, shows some love-affair as being the cause of domestic worry and anxiety, which is indicated by the islanded formation.

## The Signposts of Destiny

half-way up the centre of the palm, it runs straight up the hand to beneath the third finger and is found on the outer side of the Fate line, with which it runs parallel. This Apollo line strengthens the indications of the actual Fate line and increases its predictions of success.

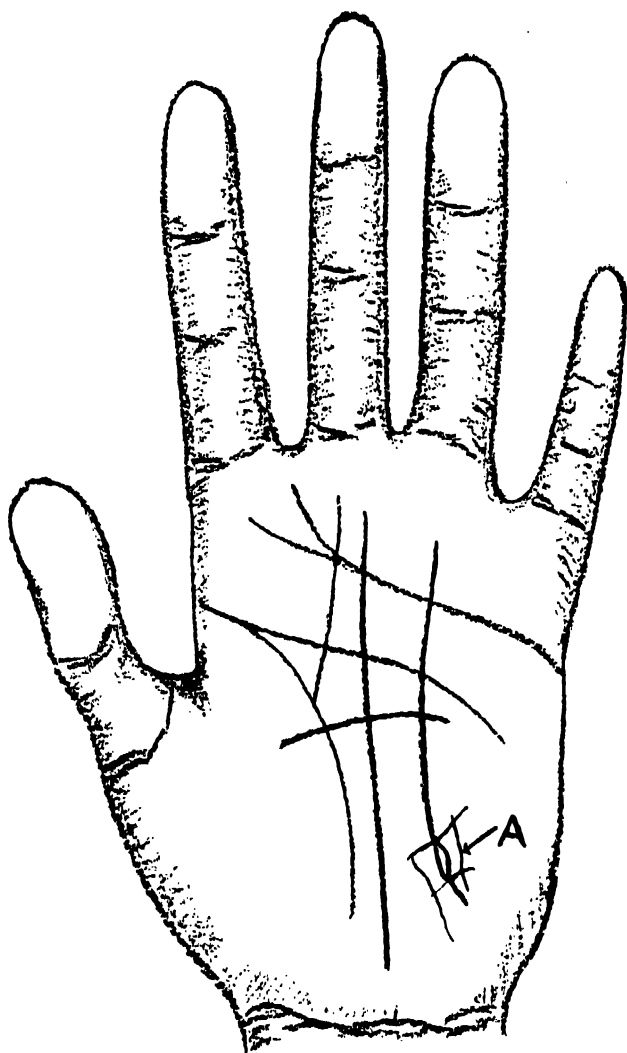
If this line begins actually on the Mount of Luna, it is an indication of the subjects' success being entirely dependent on their personality and the opinions of others, on the influence and help they attract.

It is not very often that one finds this Apollo line beginning so low on the hand, as success would not begin, normally, nearly so early. It is far more common to find this line beginning just above the Heart line; this indicates success and the stabilization of the individual life rather late, in the forties.

It is by no means common to find an islanded formation on the Apollo line—this is an indication of danger of domestic trouble; it indicates anxiety and worry caused by something affecting the private and domestic aspect of the life, even danger of some scandal. Particularly if this islanded formation in this line is preceded by any influence line from the Mount of Venus or an influence line unattached sloping up to join the Apollo line, then it is an indication of danger of the subject's success being affected by some scandal. (See Illustration 21.)

While a good Fate line assures only safety, the same line with a clear Apollo line ensures success.

Either the Fate or Apollo line may show islanded formations or even breaks; breaks in the Apollo line indicate changes affecting the private and domestic side of the life, but if these are enclosed in a clearly definable square it robs them of their more serious significance. The square is supposed to be a mark which indicates preservation from danger. Often you



### No. 22. THE SQUARE

The Fate line, surrounded by a number of squares as in this illustration, formed by other lines, indicates providential protecting circumstances. Where a square encloses an island as marked A, it indicates protection at a special point in the life and in connection with some definite event.

## The Signposts of Destiny

will find a Fate line that is rather weak but surrounded by tiny squares; this indicates protection, the protection of providential circumstances. Such providential protection is often produced by a complex combination of circumstances. While these squares may be quite independently formed, indicating some special protecting circumstances, they can also be formed by a number of other lines crossing.

For example, one side of the square could be formed by the Head line itself, another side by the Apollo line, the other side by the Fate line while the base of the square could be formed by a ray line from the Mount of Venus. In such a combination of lines two squares can be formed, if you take the outer side of the second square as being the Life line.

The interpretation of such a marking is providential protecting circumstances caused by a complex combination of factors. Where there are a number of these squares in the palmar surface of the hand it indicates that although the life may be assailed by difficulties these people are somehow always 'lucky'; something always turns up to save them, they always 'land on their feet'.

Lines that rise perpendicularly from the Life line indicate special efforts made towards the realization of some definite ambition. In the majority of 'nervy' and impulsive people's hand there are a great number of these very fine upright lines; they rise from the Life line but lead nowhere. This is a sure indication of great enthusiasm but little or no 'staying power'; the type of person who starts many things but completes very few.

Occasionally you may find one such line clearly marked running up to the base of either the second or the first finger. This is an indication of the success of some

## The Superstitious Aspect

special effort made at the time when the line leaves the Life line.

Often you will observe a number of small crosses marked on the outer edge of the Life line; these are indications of the existence of a temperamental difference between the subject and his, or her, relatives. If any of these crosses are rather large and clear then they indicate family disputes at the time where they appear by the Life line. Whenever these marks are found it is an indication that relatives are not conducive to the subject's personal welfare—they are best away from their relatives.

## Marriage

There are no marks in the hand that definitely and scientifically betray the married state. The reason is simple: if two people are very much in love and they live together there is created a mark that is called a 'marriage' line. The fulfilment or gratification of the natural impulses is registered irrespective of conventional rituals. It is perhaps very much more possible to use a 'deductive reasoning', and if this marking exists in the hand of a person whose psychological make-up is such as would prohibit any irregular type of union then it is safe to presume actual legal marriage.

At the most, exactly speaking, these lines merely indicate at what date affectionate influences entered the life. From the superstitious aspect these marks are, of course, important.

Observe the Fate line, and if you find any fine line running up from its outer side to join with the actual Fate line, then it is a line indicating marriage.

These lines are more correctly called 'affectionate influence' lines; they rise from the Luna side of the hand



## The Signposts of Destiny

and slope upwards to join the Fate line. When there are a number of very fine 'affectionate influence' lines, it cannot mean many marriages, but it can, and does, mean many affairs.

On the hands of very emotional and impulsive types of people you will find quite a number of these fine upward sloping lines. They are a sure sign of a flirtatious disposition.

Where there is one outstanding line of this type it is much more likely to indicate actual marriage.

If any of these lines are broken, it is an indication of a period of separation; a period when the affection received some check. A broken engagement would be indicated in this way.

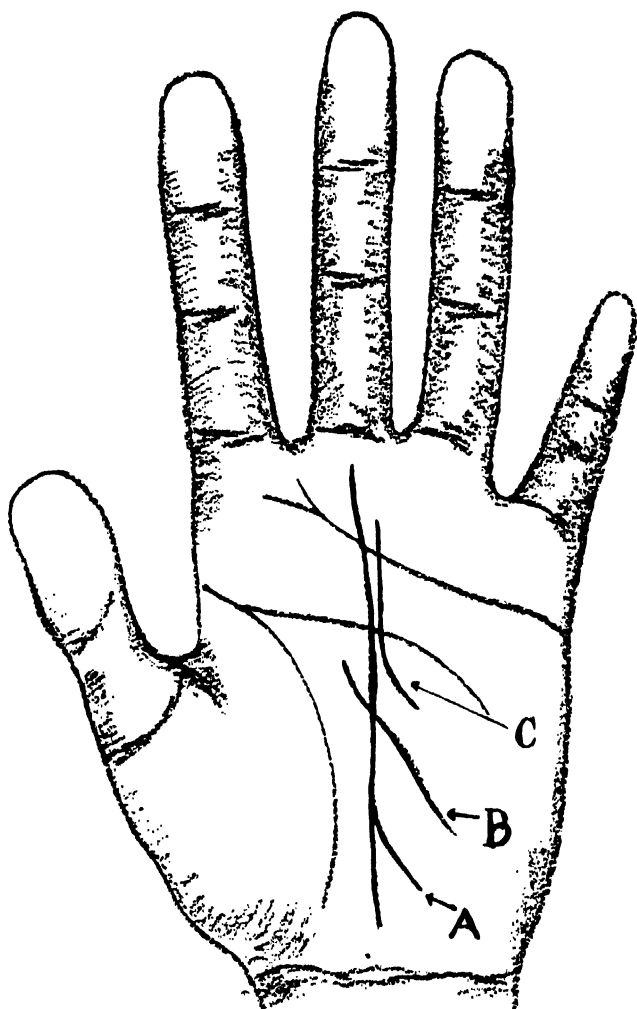
Where the affection line fades away before reaching the actual Fate line then the affair just dies a natural death; it never 'comes to anything'.

Where an 'affectionate influence' line, instead of joining the Fate line, just juts over it, it is an indication of some very definite obstacle to marriage. Generally in such cases, you will find that the object of affection that is in the subject's life is already married.

If an 'affectionate influence' line, instead of joining the main Fate line, runs up parallel with it, it is then an indication of an affection that remains in the subject's life for many years to strengthen and assist the subject's life.

If an 'affection' line is followed after its junction with the Fate line by an islanded formation, then the effect of the 'marriage', or affair, is adverse and causes anxiety and worry.

Where a ray line comes over from the Mount of Venus to cut across the Fate line at the junction of an influence line, it is an indication of some opposition to the union, an opposition by individuals rather than by circumstances.



### No. 23. MARRIAGE

A line, as marked A, running up to join the main Fate line indicates at the junction the probable date of marriage. The line marked as B, which just juts over the main Fate line, indicates an obstacle to marriage. A line as marked C, which runs up parallel with the Fate line, but without joining it, indicates a supporting affectionate influence in the life so long as the line C, continues parallel with the Fate line.

## The Signposts of Destiny

Very often you will find similar lines sloping up to join the Apollo line, but these 'affection' lines joining Apollo are shewn above the Heart line. These lines indicate affections that touch the life in the forties, very rarely do they mean marriage; they are just strong affections existing in the life.

If, however, any of these 'affection' lines joining Apollo, are followed by an island, it is an indication of grave danger of domestic trouble being caused by this particular affair: generally an illicit union.

Some palmists state that marriage is indicated by the minute horizontal lines found on the edge of the hand beneath the little finger, the outer edge of the Mount of Mercury. I entirely disregard these lines as being of any importance as actual indicators of marriage, or its possibility. They are only of importance in a confirmatory way.

If the marriage line on the edge of the Mount of Mercury, is forked it is an indication of a temperamental difference existing between husband and wife, a temperamental difference that predisposes to separation.

Where these lines on Mercury are islanded it is an indication of separation caused more by circumstances than by agreement; that is, a separation caused by travel or business necessity.

It is stated that a cross appearing at the end of this marriage line on the edge of Mercury is an indication of the partner of the subject predeceasing the subject.

It has been frequently stated that a line running from the marriage line on Mercury down across the hand to cut the Life line, is an indication of divorce. The date of the divorce being given by the junction of the line from the marriage line and the Life line. Personally I consider that this is quite unreliable.

Children are indicated by very fine perpendicular

## Marriage

lines marked just above the marriage line on the Mount of Mercury.

The fine upright lines indicate males; the lines that slope slightly are indications of females.

An island on any of these perpendicular lines is an indication of some delicacy of the child at birth; if the island is very long and wide, there is danger of the death of the child at birth.

Very minute crosses just above this marriage line is an indication of miscarriages.

Scientifically these lines merely indicate the extent of fertility. Very often, however, it will be observed that one line is rather more definable, a little thicker and clearer than the others, and this indicates the birth of one child.

## Travel

Travel is supposed to be indicated by a fine line leaving the main Life line, running across the hand towards the Mount of Luna.

When any of these travel lines end with a cross it is an indication that the journey will end with disappointment.

Should this cross be either touched, or enclosed, by a square, it is an indication of protection.

Any travel line that shows an islanded formation indicates danger of difficulties, worry and anxiety attendant upon this particular journey.

Scientifically these 'travel' lines indicate restlessness and a desire for change. But if such lines are very long and very clear then it is quite possible that the strength of the desire for change and travel will either cause opportunities to be made, or will, unconsciously, create the chances for travel.

# The Signposts of Destiny

## Time

One of the most difficult tasks that faces the student in this study is the estimation of time on the hand; the dating of events, etc., and accuracy can only be attained by constant practice.

The Life line is read down from between the thumb and first finger towards the wrist; the years of the life progress from one to, in a normal Life line, about eighty odd years of age.

The Head line is read out from between the thumb and first finger to its end on the palmar surface of the hand.

The Heart line is dated from its beginning, between the first and second fingers or actually on the Mount of Jupiter, to the edge of the hand beneath the little finger.

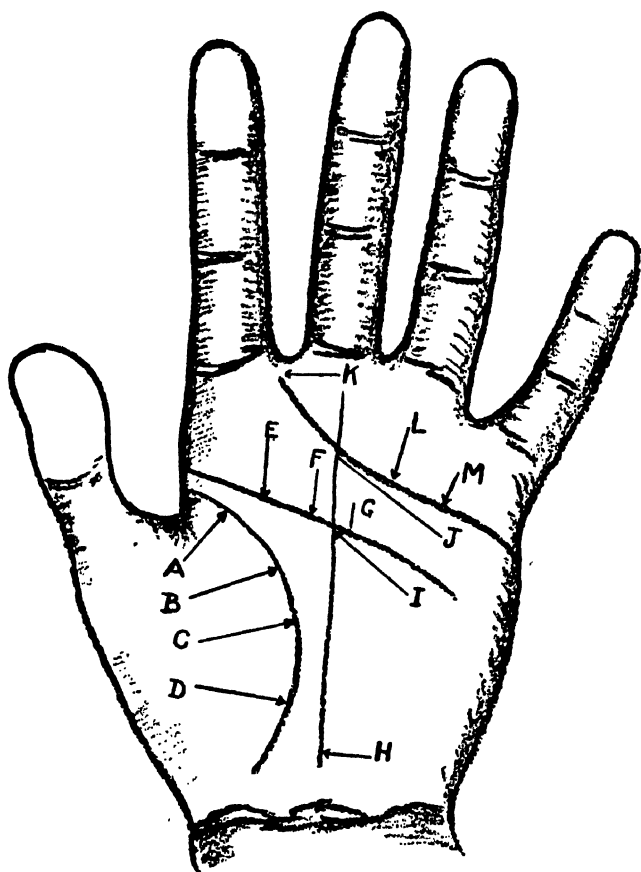
Both the Fate and Apollo lines are read up the hand, from the wrist to their endings on the Mounts.

Where the Fate line cuts the Head line, in the normal hand is at thirty years of age. But if the Head line is abnormally high on the hand, this junction of Fate and Head may be as late as thirty-five years of age. Where the Head line is low, as in the case of a person possessing a very vivid imagination, in which case the Head line would run sharply down the hand, this junction would be at about twenty-seven to twenty-eight years of age.

Where the Fate line cuts the Heart line is, normally, thirty-nine to forty years of age.

Half-way up the Mount of Saturn indicates, on the Fate line, fifty-six years of age.

I advise the student in making his early studies of hands, to ascertain from his friends the most important years and events of their lives; such events as marriage, the death of relatives, changes of occupation, etc. And



#### No. 24. TIME ON THE HAND

Time is read down the Life line.

A, 18 years.      B, 25 years.      C, 35 years.      D, 50 years.

On the Head line read out towards the edge of the hand.

E, 19 years.      F, 25 years.      G, 30 years.

On the Fate line read up the hand.

H, 20 years.      I, 30 years.      J, 39 years.

On the Heart line read out to the edge of the hand.

K, 10 years.      L, 35 years.      M, 45 years.

## The Signposts of Destiny

having taken the imprints of both left and right hands, note the positions of the changes, etc., marked in these imprints and compare them very carefully with the ascertained data. Such a method of study will, more quickly than any other, assist you to make rapid and accurate estimations of Time on the hands that you examine.

Sometimes, particularly in the case of women, you will find that the dating of the right and left hands does not apparently quite agree. There are many reasons for this, but when in any such doubt take the *left* hand as giving the exact date of an event on the Fate line.

In dealing with this superstitious aspect of hand reading, I advise the student to search very closely into the psychological aspect also; you will find that a great deal that is betrayed in the actual formation of the Fate line, is also indicated by the psychological aspect as a natural and logical sequence.

Having attained the fundamental knowledge necessary for the reading of hands, you can attain perfection only by constant study, practice and accurate observation.

It is an invaluable aid to your study if you are able to take imprints of friends' hands periodically.

I warn you never to be misled by appearances; never 'jump at conclusions', but be guided in your statements, and to your decisions, by the actual indications shewn in the hands you are examining.

Although this may be the most unsatisfactory aspect of palmistry, even so, it can, if intelligently used in conjunction with the psychological and medical aspects of hand reading, prove very useful in many ways.

## Chapter IX

### The Hand in Health and Disease

**T**he human mind is very slow to accept new ideas. Particularly if those ideas happen to clash with any preconceived idea of long-standing. Pain, for centuries, had always been associated with ill-health and even with certain normal phenomena—such as childbirth. It was accepted as a ‘natural’ thing, it had, in the public mind, become part and parcel of the act of childbirth; it had even assumed an ethical significance.

So, when that brilliant young Scottish physician, Sir James Young Simpson, invented chloroform, what an outcry there was? He was even denounced as an atheist. How dare he try to banish pain; pain had been given and it must, therefore, have some purpose.

The scathing criticisms did not all come from laymen; his medical contemporaries led the attack as they led the attack, in more recent times, on Albert Abrams and Almroth Wright.

And this type of mentality still exists. When the investigations of the Dutchman, Bendien, were first mentioned in this country, brought to notice by the *Sunday Express*, I knew that this man would not be given a fair hearing. I stated as much to several of my medical friends. I knew that any idea that was too intelligently new would be rejected. And apparently I was correct.

Therefore, I do not for one moment expect the medical profession to accept the fact that the human hand does betray diseased conditions, or any condition of the



## The Hand in Health and Disease

chemistry of the body that predisposes to certain diseased states, long before these conditions can be detected by more orthodox methods of diagnosis.

I certainly do not expect surgeons to accept the fact that a scientific survey of the human hand can be a valuable aid to diagnosis; that the hand is a diagnostic factor of very considerable importance. One publishing house refused to consider this book unless I would agree to 'cut' the medical aspect. Yes, they were quite willing to accept my book on hand reading, but they must not offend their medical authors.

I proved the basic facts to them. Yes, it was certainly very interesting—but too revolutionary.

The path of the pioneer is indeed a difficult one—but it has its compensations. It is something to know that the narrow way one is forcing through the tangled growth of ignorance and superstition may, one day, become a well-worn highway. It does give some satisfaction to imagine that the few stones of truth that you may laboriously gather as you wander on some waste shore, may perhaps be used as the foundation stones of a new house of knowledge.

The idea of the hand being of value as an aid to the diagnosis of disease is not quite so novel as the idea of its being taken quite seriously. Having proved very definitely that the hand does betray character, mental abilities, etc., there is no reason why it should not give some indication of health conditions. Particularly as so many factors affecting general health are psychological.

But the popular mind is inhibited by acquired prejudice complexes, particularly where the hand and its markings are concerned, as for centuries this study has been associated with the idea of Fortune-Telling.

But let us examine this matter carefully and with an open mind. Particularly in relation to disease, things

## The Hand in Health and Disease

never happen suddenly. The process of disintegration begins at birth; the point where the process of disintegration exceeds the repair ability of the body is the beginning of diseased conditions and ultimate dissolution. An increasing attention is being paid to those chemical alterations in the body that are the prelude to disease. This alteration of chemical balance is responsible for the majority of the symptomatic changes in the patient's appearance; the change of colouring, changes in the texture of the skin, colour of the eyes and general appearance.

It is agreed that these symptomatic changes are, in many cases, the basis of the diagnosis, but, owing to peculiar chemical alterations due to unsuspected psychological factors, there occurs error.

It is quite common knowledge that the human body is very similar to some vast city: it possesses its systems of transportation, telegraphy, defence, drainage, and its factories. In this vast city of living organisms there exist, as in all other cities, many separate and distinct colonies. These are all controlled and governed by one central power—the brain.

This city generates its own electricity supply, it has produced a marvellous system of sanitation, and the endocrine glands are the mysterious factories that attend to its chemical needs supplying, as this living city encounters various external conditions (such as changes of temperature and other potent radiations that affect its internal workings) the necessary substances to counteract any harmful effects. Effects causing alterations in its tissues, which might, in time, even threaten its continued living unity.

It is these chemical changes that indicate to the eye of the medical man that all is not well within. But by the time they have made an external appearance, the

## The Hand in Health and Disease

condition that is causing them may be too advanced to be corrected. Pain is incidental, and is no guide to the seriousness or otherwise of the cause. It has been proved that nearly all the major diseases develop without pain; they grow quietly and become malignant too suddenly to give any useful warning by their pain. Pain, in such cases, merely calls attention to the ravages of disease and the shortened span of life.

Medical science has continually searched for cures. These researches of mine have proved to me that it is far better, and easier, to prevent than to cure. The difficulty in this direction seems to lie in the ability to make a definite diagnosis, in detecting early enough, to prevent their development, any existing predispositions to disease.

It has been my experience that so many of the major diseases, in their early stages, through alterations in the Endocrine activity, cause the symptoms of apparently trifling disorders to appear.

Some years ago I examined the hand of a man supposed to be suffering from *Angina pectoris*. He had complained of heart pain, shortness of breath, etc. His hand showed no signs of *Angina pectoris*, but did very definitely show signs of an alteration in the chemical content of the blood, productive of marked digestive disorder, with a nervous reaction affecting the action of the heart. This existing chemical condition predisposed him to cancer. I did not tell him this, although I informed a relative; but I did advise some definite attention to diet, and I advised him to see a specialist to put his mind at rest regarding the condition of his heart.

The verdict of the specialist agreed with mine. And as I write these words this client is dying of the dreaded cancer. His hand had told the truth.

In giving these opinions and findings appertaining

## The Hand in Health and Disease

to the hand and disease, I do not wish for one moment to convey any suggestion or impression of finality in these researches. This system of palmistic diagnosis is by no means complete; if any system of diagnosis is ever really complete?

After all, a mere twelve or fourteen years of serious research has by no means exhausted its possibilities. Actually only enough has been achieved to say, 'This is useful, let us continue.' Much has yet to be discovered, a great deal probably to be corrected, but the results—the practical results—so far attained prove beyond any dispute the fact that the hand does betray the cause and progress of disease.

Also, I do not wish it to be imagined that such a system can easily be mastered. Like every other science it demands a concentrated study to acquire a workable knowledge—a knowledge that can be used in an active and practical way without danger of error. No man is competent to heal the sick without having made a detailed and careful study of disease; no chemist is competent to dispense prescriptions without a preparatory course of study.

The first step of importance in making any diagnosis of health conditions from the hand is the true analytical dissection of the subject's psychological factors and mental processes. It has been very definitely established that there does exist a vitally important inter-relation between mental and bodily activity—and vice versa.

I have found that a very definite pathological condition can be produced by mental or emotional activity. The mind can so affect the metabolism of the body as even to produce disease; the alteration or disturbance of the chemical balance of the body weakening its natural resistant power or even producing actual nutrient substances for the support of hostile micro-organic life,

## The Hand in Health and Disease

By the same processes mental attitudes can cause alterations in the structure of the tissues. And a faulty chemical composition produced by a faulty or wrong feeding, can affect mental processes.

We are drifting into deep waters.

Newsholme has stated, 'The likelihood of a similar disturbance of bodily integration was deduced in a number of general constitutional diseases, and in some of these was found a psychical concomitant reminiscent of the element previously noted in the nervous diseases which were utilized to open the discussion. *This suggests that these 'constitutional' diseases also are built on a defective 'constitution' dependent on maladjustment of body and mind, and of the emotional, intellectual, and spiritual constituents of the mind, with presumably again a deep dissatisfaction of spirit as the compelling force. The failure in integration of body and mind thus provides a weak place in the defensive armour against extrinsic or intrinsic noxious agencies*'.<sup>1</sup>

Sudden violent emotions react on the endocrine system very rapidly, they cause excessive production of various secretions, anything thus suddenly produced in the body by crisis being generally in excess of natural requirements. Excess, in this sense, the sense of being unnecessary, is toxic in effect. The phrase 'paralyzed with fear' is no exaggeration. The emotion of fear causes the production of certain secretions by the endocrine system, normally to counteract the emotion of fear, but in excess it produces a definite paralyzation of nerve activities.

Therefore it is logical to assume that a continued state of fear, an apprehensively anxious state of mind, would result in an excessive production of a normally

<sup>1</sup> *Health, Disease and Integration*. H. P. Newsholme, M.A., M.D., etc.

## The Hand in Health and Disease

defensive secretion which, if continued over a number of years, would ultimately result in a state of auto-intoxication. An unnatural state of mind will produce an unnatural, which is an unhealthy, state of body.

This production of auto-intoxication by 'emotional accumulation' or repression, is not, of course, confined to the emotion of fear, but can be produced by any repressed emotion. Admittedly some emotions are more deadly and rapid in their activity than others.

'Emotional repression' is a term that is strictly relative and which is quite undefinable. Normal emotional expression in one person is excess in another. The differentiation between emotional normality and abnormality, depends entirely on the result of the individual psychological analysis. Only in certain definitely abnormal types can any broad generalization be made.

All human emotions are, in everyday life, subject to control, an intelligent repression that is very necessary; it is the degree of control that matters. This is gauged by the results of the palmistic psycho-analytical survey, when we find that repression is produced by an immense variety of causes.

Whether or not the practitioner is able to assist in restoring normal emotional balance depends on his psychological and medical knowledge; this may be quite an easy and safe thing for the physician to do, but an extremely dangerous thing for the amateur even to attempt.

There is little doubt that the strongest emotions produced in Man have their origin in the sexual instincts; but I do not agree that *all* emotions and actions have their origin in sex. Therefore the strength and quality, whether physical or mental, of these sex urges is vital knowledge when considering the possibility of the existence of any predispositions to disease.

## The Hand in Health and Disease

I have found that in some cases, where there exists a state of auto-intoxication due to inhibitory mental activity, the correction or removal of the inhibition results in the restoration of bodily functions. A 'balancing' of the mental and emotional activities results in a more balanced activity of the endocrine system.

Before any statement can be made, or any definite opinion formed, there is one other point to be determined. Is the auto-intoxication, which is undoubtedly caused by faulty endocrine activity in the majority of cases, caused by faulty psychic functioning affecting the endocrines, or is there some definitely physiological defect affecting these glands, which is the cause of the mental defect?

This is not always an easy point to determine, and it requires a very careful survey of the hand.

I have used the term 'auto-intoxication' in the sense of implying a disturbance of the ductless glands or their faulty action—a lack of psychological balance. This term is often applied to similar conditions caused by bacteria activity. I agree with Fisk when he states, 'Auto-intoxication is not a strictly accurate term to apply to the results of intestinal stasis, as the bacterial products that result from such a condition are caused by invading bacteria and not as a result of cellular reaction in the body. The term auto-intoxication would be more appropriately applied to disturbances of the ductless glands. . . .'<sup>1</sup>

Often the auto-intoxication caused by faulty endocrine action is very closely followed by intestinal stasis of bacterial origin; permitted by the alteration of the chemical constituents of the body by the foregoing faulty gland action, which has weakened the normal resistant power.

<sup>1</sup> *Health Building and Life Extension*. E. L. Fisk, M.D.

## The Hand in Health and Disease

This brings us to the consideration of another important chemical factor, in which this scientific survey of the hand can be of enormous assistance, that is, food.

Again to quote Fisk: 'That the bacterial flora in the average civilized man's intestine is not ideal is coming to be recognized as a pathological fact, even apart from well-defined intestinal stasis or constipation. There is need not only to correct definitely sluggish bowels, but to educate the people to regulate the diet in such a way as to prevent masked constipation which often exists when there is only one movement a day.'<sup>1</sup>

Robert McCarrison, in his book, *Studies in Deficiency Disease*, says: 'I set out to discover how the body goes sick in consequence of deficient foods, which are usually ill-balanced foods. I have found that what happens is this—in the absence of vitamins or in their inadequate supply neither proteins nor fats nor carbo-hydrates nor salts are properly utilized; some are largely wasted, while others yield products harmful to the organism. In these circumstances life may be sustained for a longer or a shorter period, during which the body utilizes its reserve stores of vitamins and sacrifices its less important tissues to this end. Extreme deprivation means rapid dissolution and death; partial deprivation means slow dissolution and disease.' He states later: 'I do not doubt that, if the practice I now follow of estimating the vitamin value and the qualitative balance of the food in every case that comes before me is followed by others, they will be impressed, as I am, with the vast importance of the food factor in the causation of disease.'

And these studies of the human hand in connection with diseased conditions have led me to the same conclusions. I have found, particularly in cases of intes-

<sup>1</sup> *Health Building and Life Extension*. E. L. Fisk, M.D.



## The Hand in Health and Disease

tinal infections, that alteration of diet, by which I mean its correction, results not only in physical improvement, but affects the mental processes as well. There is, obviously, a complex interaction between vitamins and endocrine activity. So this aspect becomes vitally important in connection with the prevention of disease and the stabilization of mental processes.

I am quite convinced that as this knowledge becomes more widely understood and more widely applied in actual medical practice, so will there result a marked decrease in surgical methods of treatment.

The difficulty that is so often encountered by patients is the lack of skilled advice and guidance in the matters of food and drink. *In so many cases I have found that the medical practitioner had entirely omitted any reference to suitable foods and drinks. In other words, it is the common practice to disregard the fundamental chemical compositions and their probable reactions in individual cases.*

Recently I was asked to examine the hand of a man who was apparently in good health. He held an important business position and had developed a most marked nervous irritability with its consequent instability of action. This was likely to affect his position; his family was very worried.

The examination of his hands revealed an extensive intestinal infection; the toxins produced were, through absorption, affecting the general nervous system and the mental processes—a lack of concentration with a sense of dissatisfaction and a lack of control over emotional impulses. I suggested, owing to the seriousness of the condition, that medical treatment was essential as well as a strict dietetic regime.

A doctor was called in who examined the man in my presence. I had already, unknown to the patient, given the doctor my opinion of the case; at the end of his ex-

## The Hand in Health and Disease

amination he turned to me and said, 'I entirely agree with your diagnosis, Mr. Jaquin.' He then asked my opinion of the best diet for the case. I suggested certain foods as being suitable and he agreed that they were correct and he undertook the medical treatment of the case. Before I left I warned the patient that any disregard of the instructions might be serious.

I was asked by another doctor to examine the hands of one of his patients. This woman was proving a very difficult patient and did not seem to respond to any form of treatment; the doctor told me frankly, that he was not certain of the fundamental cause. I found a definitely psychological cause and sent him a detailed report. He wrote to me, '*Re Mrs. —*, I think you get right to the root of the matter here, and as you know, it is one of the most difficult cases to conduct I have ever struck. We are carrying on as indicated. . . .'

About this time I was consulted by an anxious mother whose son, while showing no signs of any actual ill-health, was certainly not developing normally, either physically or mentally. The survey of the lad's hands revealed a marked endocrine deficiency. Although this boy had been taken to doctors, none had so far detected the cause of the trouble. I advised the mother to take the boy to a particular medical practitioner, who lived near her home and was particularly clever in dealing with such cases. She agreed to do as I suggested.

I wrote to this doctor telling him my opinion of the case and asking if he would be good enough to let me know, after he had seen the case, whether he agreed with my diagnosis or not. I received a letter in which he tells me, 'I have seen the boy . . . twice, and I agree with your opinion that an endocrine deficiency is at the back of the trouble.'

## The Hand in Health and Disease

I am not stating these cases in any boastful spirit, but merely to prove the fact that the hand can be used as a very valuable diagnostic factor. While it does not supersede more orthodox methods it does assist them. It tends to reduce their fallibility.

The preliminary psychological survey of the hand may also reveal such very definitely psychological defects as to indicate a predisposition to insanity. There exists a widespread belief that certain marks indicate insanity. This is not quite true. It is a very difficult thing clearly to define a condition of insanity; not only are there many forms and types of mental disorders, but there are innumerable 'border line' cases.

There can exist such a marked lack of emotional control, coupled with a number of psychological factors in opposition, as to render the individual quite unstable mentally and absolutely irresponsible, so that actually he is 'insane', but not insane in the sense of there being any organic disturbance of the brain, or its being due to any pathological condition of the tissues or cellular structures.

At first the student may experience some difficulty in making a differentiation between the 'normal' psychological defects and those that are decidedly 'abnormal', between those that are temporary in character and those that are permanent.

Having mastered the fundamental principles of character dissection and having learnt to apply analytical deductive methods to the interpretation of the various formations found in the hand, it is then merely a matter of practice before you will be able to distinguish the strengths and types of the various psychological defects that are detected.

In view of its general value, the psychological aspect, or the 'character' of the subject, should be dealt with

## The Hand in Health and Disease

first in making a general and comprehensive study of any hand; then you should take the 'superstitious' aspect as being likely to be affected, if not actually directly produced by the psychological composition. Finally, the health aspect of the hand should be dealt with. In dealing with this you may find that your observations previously made on other aspects of the individual's activities are of value. These may either explain some defect of the health, or some defect in the health may explain a defect in one of the other aspects.

We can now consider the actual formations of the human hand that are possessed of a diagnostic value.

### The Fingers, Nails and Skin

First let me quote from *Clinical Methods*, by Hutchinson and Rainy, two medical authorities.

'The hands of the patient merit careful observation. . . . Their general shape should be noted. Are they stunted, as in congenital cretinism, or "spade-like", as in myxoedema? . . . In nerve disease the skin of the hand may undergo trophic changes, becoming thin and glossy; or the vessels may be influenced by vaso-motor disorders, and lead to redness or to a pallid and dead-looking state of the fingers. . . . In acromegaly and in pulmonary osteoarthopathy there are very characteristic enlargements of the hands, which present a singularly massive appearance. The fingers become clubbed under conditions which produce chronic congestion of the peripheral veins, chief among such conditions being respiratory or cardiac embarrassment. Where the congestion is marked the finger-tips are blue and cold, and the nails are much curved longitudinally. *The nails exhibit longitudinal grooves in gouty persons, in whom also*

## The Hand in Health and Disease

*they are often singularly hard and brittle; whilst a transverse furrow is the record of some former interference with the nail's nutrition, and, in the absence of a local cause, points to some severe constitutional illness.* [The italics are mine.] Many persons, especially those of the so-called lymphatic temperament, have moist and clammy hands. These in women frequently indicate excessive leucorrhoeal loss, and so aid in directing inquiry towards this subject.'

I agree. The hands of a patient do merit a *very careful attention*, far more careful attention than is generally given to them.

The first thing for the student to do is to note the shape and size of the fingers. Where the fingers are all of one definite type; that is, where, for example they are all waisted, then it is an indication of one general predisposition. Neither the fingers, nails or skin alone can establish a definite diagnosis, they are merely factors in that diagnosis; they indicate the direction and type of the constitutional tendency of the individual.

Waisted fingers, where the joints are all very well developed so as to give a waisted appearance, are an indication of lack of tubercular resistance of the body. This formation must not be confused with the 'knobby' formation of the fingers indicative of the presence of acidity and a rheumatic predisposition.

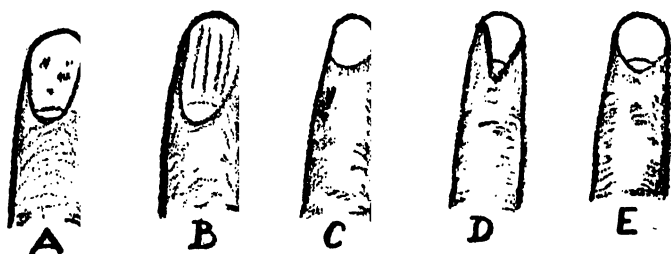
Where the fingers are all very smooth with a pinky reddish shiny skin, it is an indication of some acidity which, in these cases, is generally of intestinal origin.

It is the finger nails that give the most important indications of existing predispositions. And you will very frequently find nails that are flecked with tiny white spots. These white flecks are indications of the existence of some nerve exhaustion. They are generally found on the hands of 'highly strung' impulsive types

## The Fingers, Nails and Skin

of people, people who live very 'tensely' using their supplies of nervous vitality as quickly as they are produced, if not even exceeding in use the rate of their production.

Where the nails are shaped in a neat circular formation with no moons showing, it is an indication of a predisposition to some heart weakness. This is the Cardiac type of nail. Where all the nails of all the fingers are of this type, they are generally bluish in tinge which is suggestive of some organic defect of the heart.



### No: 25. THE FINGER NAILS

- A. White flecks in the nail indicating nerve exhaustion.
- B. Filbert shaped nail indicating a predisposition for lung weakness.
- C. Cardiac type of nail indicating weakness of the heart.
- D. Nerve nail indicating a predisposition to nerve trouble.
- E. Throat weakness is indicated by this type of nail.

This same neat circular cardiac type of nail, but with the moons very fully developed, is an indication of heart weakness of a different type. This formation points more to dilation of the heart or to some defect of circulation, such as blood pressure.

Filbert shaped nails indicate a defect in the resistant constituents of the body, and a predisposition to some tubercular infection or allied condition.

This is accentuated if the filbert nail also shows longitudinal grooves. These longitudinal grooves indi-

## The Hand in Health and Disease

cate the existence of an acidulous tendency, but not necessarily gout. They are very definite indications of some constitutional weakness—often an inherited weakness, particularly if only the nails of the left hand are so marked.

Where the nail is formed in a sharp V shape at its base it is an indication of some definite nerve weakness. In such cases attention should be directed to the spinal column and the spinal nerve branches. This type of nail is found in cases of injury to the spinal segments caused through falls or blows, particularly when all the nails end in this V shape.

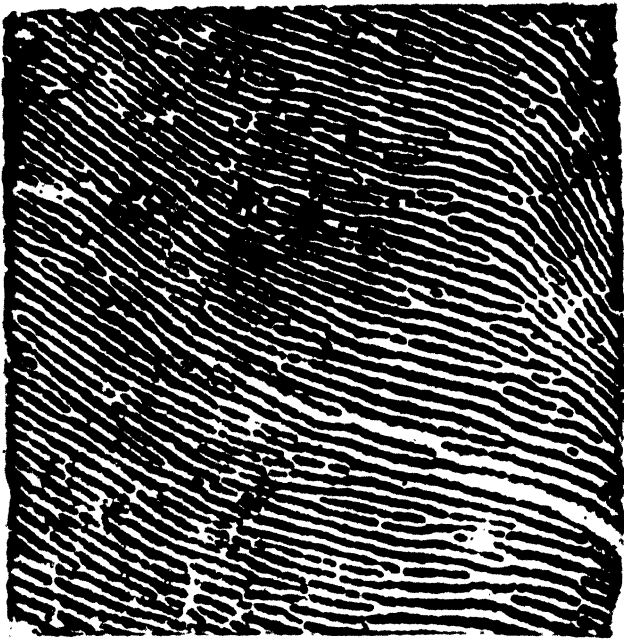
Where the nail is of the circular formation, very similar to the cardiac type of nail, but with the base formed as a slight V, it then draws attention to a predisposition to throat weakness which will probably be of nerve origin.

Where the nail is marked with a horizontal groove it is an indication of a previous period of ill-health; generally some rather serious illness of a sudden or rapid type, has affected the subject recently. This horizontal ridge is merely a record of a past illness or period of marked constitutional weakness and does not indicate any such danger in the future. By gauging the distance that the ridge may be from the base of the nail it is possible accurately to gauge the date of the illness. It takes, normally, about six months for a nail to grow from its base to the extreme top edge.

Where a nail is 'clubbed' or bulbous in shape, with a series of fine longitudinal ridges showing, it is an indication of a definite tubercular activity.

Nails that are narrow, yet filbert in shape, indicate some danger of nervous debility and draw attention to the general nervous system.

The actual texture of the skin, its colour and normal



No. 26. HOW THE MICROSCOPE DETECTS  
DISEASE

The above is a micro-photograph of an imprint of a healthy hand,  
showing normal clear ridge lines.





## The Fingers, Nails and Skin

temperature are all of importance in considering the health aspect.

A very dry scaly skin indicates, particularly when coarse and cold, nervous energy but lack of vigorous vitality. The type of person who is instinctively emotional—repressive, apparently devoid of emotion—this implies a storage of emotional energy and the consequent danger of malignant conditions or their development. This type of skin also indicates a lack of thyroid secretion.

A soft warm skin, particularly when moist, points to an over-activity of the thyroid. In these cases you should examine closely the sexual aspect of the hand; these conditions often indicate some excessive sexual expression or indulgence; not necessarily normal sex intercourse. Examine the hand for indications of hypersensitivity of sex tendencies coupled with some inhibition.

Where the skin of the hand is very fine, the temperature normal, and the actual consistency of the flesh is firm, it is an indication of a 'highly strung' nervous system.

If the skin, while soft with a normal temperature, possesses a consistency that is flabby, it draws attention to the internal secretions in relation to nerve disease and the possibility of some definite bacterial infection. Also examine the Head line; the mental processes are likely to be, in some way, either abnormal or unstable.

Where the skin is reddish it is an indication of some predisposition to blood pressure or an allied condition.

If the skin is yellowish in colour it draws attention to the general blood condition; you should search for signs of auto-intoxication or some intestinal infection.

The skin of the hand is affected by defects of the endocrines. I would advise the student who is sufficiently

## The Hand in Health and Disease

interested, to read some of the more recent medical authorities on this subject. To deal with this aspect in anything like detail would be to defeat the main object of this book, which is to give a general introduction to a vast subject, and it would mean becoming rather too technical.

The whole of the palmar surface of the hand is covered with a definite pattern or design. This pattern is formed by ridges in the surface of the outer layer. These ridges are very important when making any examination of the hand in connection with health. Normally these ridges show in the inked imprints as black lines. Some people possess thick coarse ridges while others have very fine thin ridge lines. In healthy people these ridges are clear and distinct; they are free from breaks, points or dots or any appearance of serration. Ridge lines that stop suddenly in the actual pattern of the ridge design must not be mistaken for breaks.

I have found that in nearly all diseased conditions the normal formation of the ridges is altered by chemical action. Apparently each of the toxins produced by each hostile micro-organism causes an individual and separate reaction on the chemistry of the body and these alterations in chemical balance alter the formation of the actual ridge lines. These chemical alterations affecting the ridges do not alter the ridge pattern; they merely cause alterations in the formation of the actual ridge lines. Instead of being clear unbroken lines they assume, very often, a broken serrated appearance which is either very extensive or is minutely patchy.

In making these minute, but important, observations of the skin's formation you must be very careful not to be misled by any roughness of the skin's surface caused by the handling of rough objects, or a 'chapped' appearance acquired from the hand's constant immer-



No. 27. MALARIA

The above is a micro-photograph of a portion of an imprint of the hand of a man suffering from malaria. Observe the minute white dots in the ridge lines.



## The Fingers, Nails and Skin

sion in washing water. I have seen the hands of people who have spent some hours gardening presenting a very misleading appearance when imprinted. Practice will soon enable you to distinguish between the 'artificially' produced alterations and those produced by faulty internal action of the bodily functions.

The matter of the paper on which the imprints of the hands are to be made becomes, now, a very important matter. Particularly if you propose to take imprints of the same hands over a period of years and at regular intervals for the purpose of observing any changes that may take place in the actual markings of the hand. If you use a rough surfaced paper, the surface may quite easily give the false impression of blurred or broken ridge lines, leading you to an erroneous conclusion. If you take one imprint on smooth paper and at a later date you take another imprint of the same hand on rough surfaced paper, you may be falsely led to the conclusion of serious alterations in the health condition of the subject. *Always keep to the same paper and let it be a paper having a smooth flat surface.* The 'Bridewell Matt Art', made by Messrs. Samuel Jones & Co., Ltd., of Bridewell Place, London, as I have already stated, is the best for our purpose.

I advise the student also to make it a rule to take all imprints with the Finger Print ink. The smoked paper method is not quite so satisfactory, particularly when dealing with the health indications given by the hand; the ridge lines in these impressions come out *white*, the raised surface of the ridge taking up the carbon particles from the paper.

You cannot make any satisfactory diagnosis from an examination of the actual hand alone; it is very necessary for imprints to be taken. The reason is obvious; it is impossible for the naked eye to detect many of these

## The Hand in Health and Disease

very minute indications of health factors in the ridge lines. Whereas an imprint shows them quite clearly. In addition, you have a permanent record of the case for future reference and further study.



No. 28. BACTERIAL INFECTION

The above is a micro-photograph of an imprint of palmar skin, showing the typical malformation of the ridge pattern in the case of an acute bacterial infection of the intestine.





## *Chapter X*

### Diagnosis

**T**wo people can display similar symptoms of ill-health yet can both be suffering from entirely different complaints. The same people can have the same complaint, and yet both present entirely different symptoms; the pain of the indisposition can even be felt in different organs. These facts explain so many mistakes made by hurried diagnosis and careless generalizations.

It is very curious that so many medical men do not seem to bother about the fundamental causes of ill-health. Rheumatism, for example, has many forms and more than one cause. I know of many cases where the patient has been treated continually with palliative drugs over a long period of time without the doctor once taking the trouble to seek for the fundamental cause of the disorder. Particularly does this happen with rheumatic afflictions; the rheumatic symptoms are very often the symptoms of some other and much more serious and deep-seated cause.

The expert examination of an imprint of the hand will reveal the fundamental cause of the disorder, and it has been proved that a correct diagnosis is half the battle. If it is definitely known what is actually wrong, then, in most cases, treatment is a comparatively easy matter. It is known that, for most diseases, there are three or four different drugs, three or four different forms of treatment, but very often only one is of any use in any one particular case. The secret of this is to be

## Diagnosis

found in the chemical composition of the patient's body. What is efficacious in one case may have no effect in another. This critical examination of the hand will help in this direction also, as the hand indicates the chemical composition of the individual.

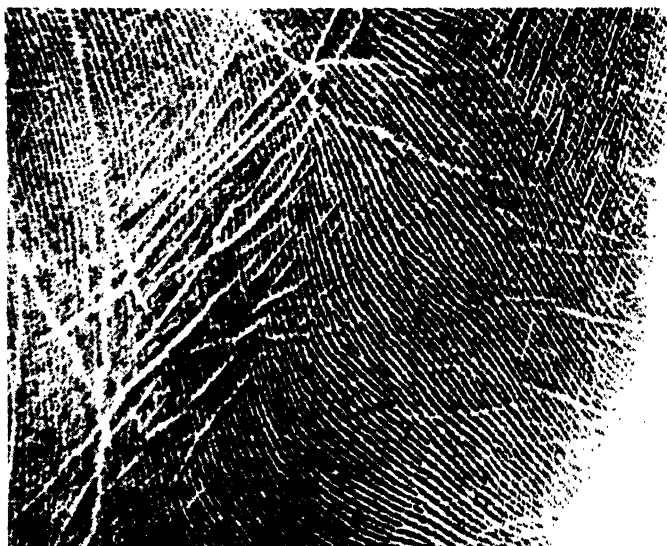
## Intestinal Conditions

It is being increasingly realized that the intestinal tract in man is the seat of so many morbid pathological conditions of the body, that this tract is the breeding ground of so many forms of hostile micro-organic life which can exist for many years, and, by a slow process of absorption, slowly poison the body, gradually altering its chemical composition and ultimately producing a general condition of the body predisposing to serious malignant conditions.

The psychological indications are of paramount importance in this direction. I have found that so many morbid intestinal conditions have their fundamental origins in faulty mental attitudes.

Where the lines of the hand, the general lining of the hand that is, is very fine, numerous lines running all over the palmar surface of the hand, it is an indication of a naturally active and 'highly strung' nervous system. And if, in such a hand, you find that the actual Head line is marked with a number of very fine lines seemingly falling from or through it, or with a number of minute indentations marked throughout the line's length, it is an indication of a worrying and apprehensive disposition, particularly if the Head line is straight.

And if the Health line, which is the line running from the Mount of Mercury down in a sloping direction to the line of Life, is not formed by one clear line, but is composed of many small fine lines. This then in-

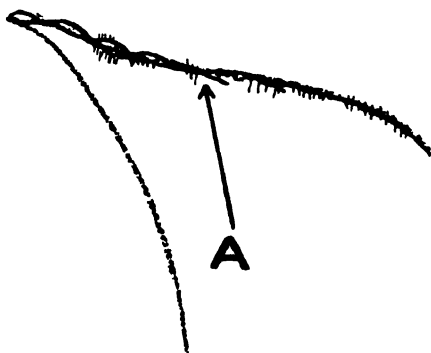


No. 29. INTESTINAL ACIDITY

A number of fine lines running slantwise down the hand indicate gastric disorder and acidity of the digestive tract, generally the result of faulty feeding.



## Intestinal Conditions



### No. 30. A 'NERVY' HEAD LINE

A is the Head line. Observe the minute lines falling through and from the main line. These indicate a nervy, apprehensive type of mentality.

indicates the existence of some digestive sensitivity that is of nerve origin.

The formation of the actual Head line, in this case, would indicate a naturally worrying nervous disposition. Any anxiety or mental state productive of nervous tension, would react adversely on the digestive apparatus, favouring the production of an intestinal acidity. And it is as well to warn these people that they should make it a rule to take only light easily digested meals when in any disturbed mental state.

The above formation is an indication of a condition that really only amounts to a predisposition. But where these indications exist in an accentuated form, that is, where the fine sloping lines extend into a *definite* patch towards the centre of the palmar surface, this indicates a more serious functional disorder which predisposes to ulceration.

There is a steady increase in the number of these cases; this is due, in my opinion, to the increase in 'unnatural' foods in excess; such as salted meats and tinned

## Diagnosis

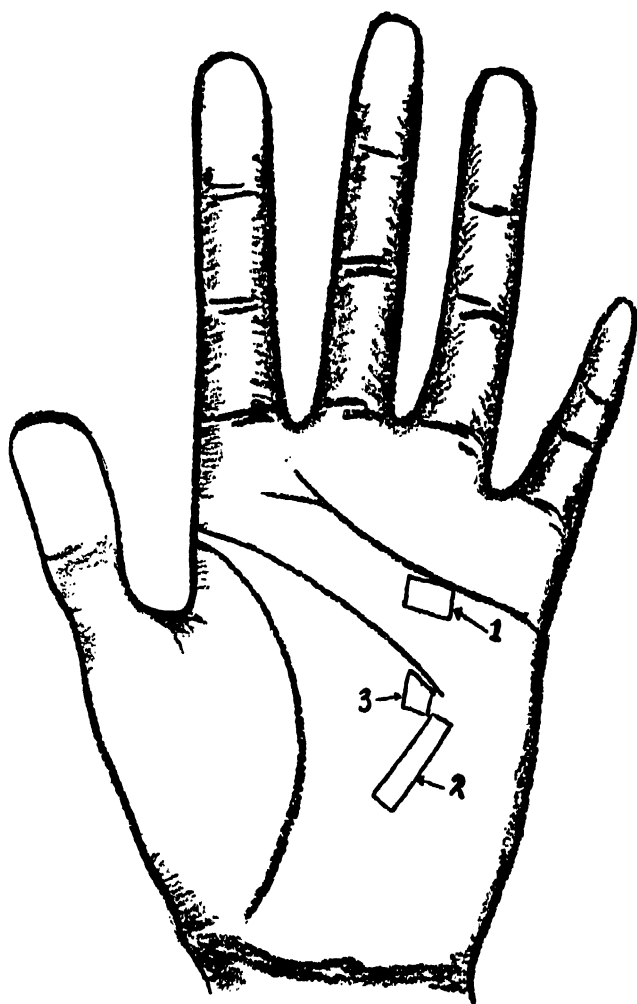
foods, which are being consumed in increasing quantities. A secondary contributory cause is to be found in the increase of unconscious nerve irritation due to increased activity and noise: such as the widespread un-intelligent use of wireless, etc., this nerve irritation reacting adversely on digestive processes.

Where this formation exists it is a definite warning of the need for dietetic care and there should be a strict avoidance of all irritating or stimulatory foods and animal fats.

Where this formation is shewn, as in Illustration 29, which is a micro-photograph of an actual imprint, together with a small patch of very fine perpendicular lines extending from the outer edge of the hand beneath the Heart line in towards the actual Health line formation, then it is an indication of marked acidity. The patch of perpendicular lines at the edge of the hand indicating some faulty kidney action; the faulty elimination of uric acid. If this patch should extend *down the edge of the hand*, as well as in towards the palm, there is danger of actual disease of the kidney.

In such cases as this you will often observe that the Head and Life lines begin with an 'open' formation. *These people are very apt to eat too quickly*, there is an inadequate mastication of food, the stomach is left to do the work of the teeth.

In dealing with intestinal conditions you must examine the formation and composition of the actual ridges of the skin very carefully. If there are *all the previous formations and in addition* there is a tiny patch of the skin's ridges in position 1, in Illustration 31, showing a minute serration of the actual ridges as in Diagram 32, there is an indication of some metallic absorption—generally aluminium. There is no doubt that a good many people are becoming much more susceptible to



No. 31. POSITIONS OF MALFORMATIONS OF RIDGES

Malformation of the ridge lines in an imprint in position 1 points to metallic absorption. Position 2 indicates the area wherein the malformations of the skin's ridges indicate intestinal ulceration. Position 3 indicates the area where the first ridge malformations betraying cancer virus appear,



## Diagnosis

colds, catarrhal conditions, etc., due to the increasing use of aluminium cooking vessels. It does not affect all people, but it affects a great many.

Where there are a number of fine perpendicular lines just above the Heart line at the base of the Mount of Mercury, it is an indication of some dental weakness. If, with this formation, you also find a minute patch of malformation of the skin's ridges, it is an indication of the existence of a bacterial infection of the gums. The consequent absorption of toxins will accentuate any toxic intestinal condition and the subject's attention should be drawn to this defect.



### No. 32. MALFORMATION CAUSED BY METALLIC ABSORPTION

The above diagram illustrates the type of malformation of the ridge lines existing where there is metallic absorption, particularly aluminium.

Where there exists a faulty formation of the skin's ridges in position 2, as in Illustration 31, it points to the danger of an ulcerated patch in the intestine. The ridges would then be formed as in Illustration 33.

I do not propose at the moment to give the distinguishing ridge formations of the various micro-organisms that affect this intestinal tract and produce diseased conditions. Such a differentiation is beyond the ability of the amateur. But if there exists a malformation of the ridges in position 3, in Diagram 31, it indicates the existence of some extensive intestinal bacterial

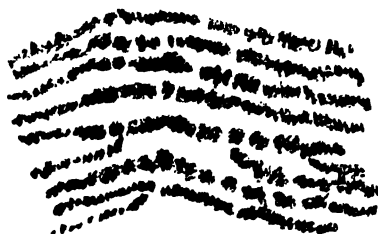
## Intestinal Conditions

infection. Such a formation demands competent medical treatment.

### Conditions Common to Women

Apart from the fact that intestinal conditions often have a definite reaction on the uterus and ovaries, there are certain conditions of these organs that are independent of any other condition.

If the Mount of Luna shows many lines, giving the Mount a criss-cross appearance, this is an indication of some weakness of the organs of generation. A weakness of the uterus which predisposes to miscarriages. In all such cases great care must be exercised during the period of gestation.



No. 33. MALFORMATION INDICATING  
ULCERATION

This diagram illustrates the type of malformation found in the skin's ridges when there exists any actual ulceration.

If in addition there are any malformation of the ridges on this lower part of the Mount, it indicates the existence of some bacterial infection. And if the malformation of the ridges extends actually high on to the Mount, then it is an indication of some ovarian disorder of bacterial origin, an inflammatory condition of those organs.

# Diagnosis

## Rheumatic Conditions

One of the greatest curses of modern civilization is rheumatism. This is a term that covers a number of very varied conditions. It indicates conditions that have many causes.

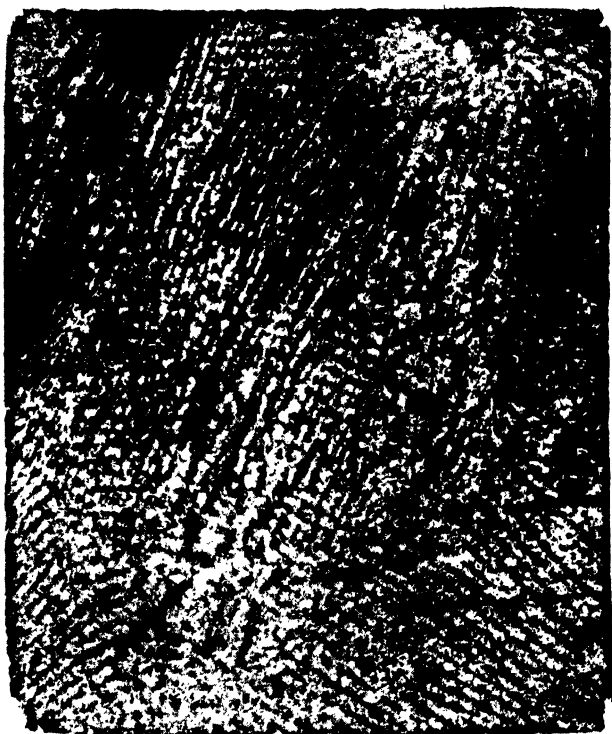
Acute rheumatism is fundamentally caused by a superabundance of acid. This can be caused by faulty kidney action or by some functional disorder of the intestines or an actual bacterial infection in the intestinal tract producing acidulous toxins, which are absorbed by the body instead of being evacuated with other waste products.

I have found that, in all cases, the *discovery and correction* of the *fundamental cause will result in a cure*. *In rheumatic conditions the persistent application of palliative measures is a waste of time, and is even dangerous.* The cause must be discovered and corrected.

Where there are indications of a functional disorder of the intestinal tract, with an extensive marking of minute islanded and perpendicular lines extending from the outer edge of the hand well into the palmar surface, as in Illustration 34, you have every indication of acute rheumatism.

In these cases, the first step towards the elimination of the acidulous condition is by alteration of diet.

In arthritis you *sometimes* get this indication of marked acidity, but you always find indications of bacterial activity in the formations of the main lines. That is, there are minute dots or points on the edges of the Life and Head lines; even the 'Fate' line may be affected. These dotted formations give the line the appearance of a certain fluffiness.



No. 34. RHEUMATIC PREDISPOSITIONS

The above micro-photograph reveals the typical minute markings found in ordinary acute rheumatism.



# Heart Conditions

## Heart Conditions

The condition of the heart is indicated by the formation of the Heart line. Not so much by its general formation—that is, whether it runs in a straight line across the hand or whether it is curved—but by its composition.

Where there are a number of very fine perpendicular lines dropping from the Heart line it indicates a nervous, responsive type of heart action. The heart that will respond very rapidly to emotional stimulation, that will be affected by fear, joy, etc., to rather an abnormal extent.

Where there are a number of very fine dots or points actually in the composition of the Heart line this indicates some 'nervy' heart action that is caused by bacterial toxins. These minute formations demand a careful examination of the whole hand; they show the existence of an infection somewhere in the body which is affecting the heart adversely.

If the Heart line shows minute circular dots in small patches or in clustered groups in its composition, then there is an indication of some actual disease of the heart, this formation pointing to an infection of the heart.

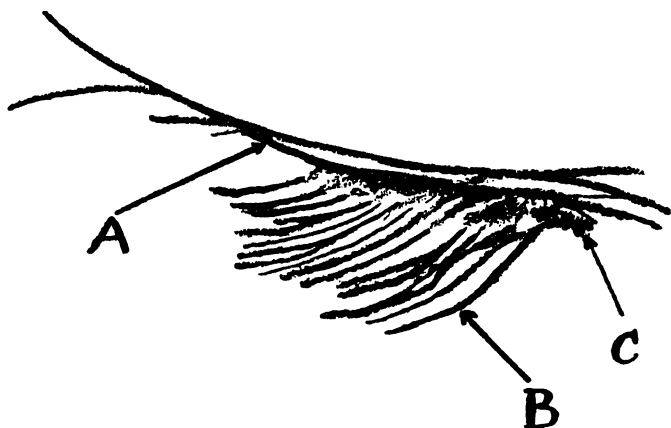
Where the Heart line shows faint dots or points in its composition at its commencement and these increase to form definite bunches or clustered groups as the line travels towards its end at the outer edge of the hand, it is an indication of Heart disease. In these cases look very carefully for a break, a clear break in the line, which is thickly clustered by these blurring formations. Such a marking is an indication of the danger of a heart attack, and danger of death at that point where the break occurs.

Where the ridges of the skin seem to travel from the lower edge of the actual line but are blurred as in Dia-

## Diagnosis

gram 35, there is an indication of some 'flabbiness' of the heart's condition.

Where there are clear clustered formations of dots along the lower edge of the line between two imaginary lines drawn straight down the hand from the inner edge of the second finger and the inner edge of the little finger, there is a predisposition to Angina pectoris. If the clustered formations invade the actual line, which would be islanded, it is an indication of the actual disease. Any breaks in such a line are points of danger.



No. 35. A FLABBY HEART

A is the actual Heart line, and the ridges B, instead of running clearly to the lower edge of the Heart line, disappear in a blurred formation, C.

This indicates a flabby condition of the heart.

A frayed and islanded Heart line is an indication of a 'nervy' heart, that is, 'naturally nervy'. If this type of line also shows a fluffy appearance as in Diagram 37, it is an indication of the presence in some other organs of the body of bacteria which are affecting the heart's action.



No. 36. A PORTION OF THE IMPRINT OF THE  
HAND OF SIR A. CONAN DOYLE

The above micro-photograph shows a section of the Heart line in the imprint of the hand of the late Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. This imprint was taken in 1923 when the frayed and speckled appearance of the line showed developing heart weakness.





## Heart Conditions



### No. 37. NERVY HEART ACTION

A frayed Heart line as above, surrounded by a fluffy formation, indicates a nervy condition of the heart caused by the existence of a bacterial infection.

A very clear islanded formation marked under the Mount of Apollo is an indication of some weakness of the eyes, generally eye-strain.

## Chest Conditions

In the formation of the Health line you will often observe islands, and their formation is important.

Where there are one or two long narrow islands, it is an indication of some danger of throat weakness.

If the islanded formation is broad and short, it is an indication of some weakness of the lungs and bronchial air passages; this points to danger of bronchial colds, but if very clearly marked danger of actual bronchitis.

Pleurisy is marked by a small islanded formation in the Health line with malformations of the skin's ridges surrounding this islanded formation. Also you will find a thinning of the actual Life line at the same date.

Tuberculosis is a bacterial disease and therefore we find that there is the characteristic fluffiness of the main lines in a case of virulent activity. Particularly will the actual Life line be affected; this will show a minute islanded composition while the actual Health line will show a series of islanded formations if the lungs are badly infected.

## Diagnosis

If you find that the Life line becomes clear of islands as it travels down the hand it is an indication of a checking of the disease but not of its complete cure and elimination so long as the 'fluffy' appearance of other lines persists. If both islands and the fluffiness of the lines disappear then it shows actual elimination of the bacterial infection.

## Cancer

This disease is increasing, its ravages being widespread, and its cure very uncertain. The cure for cancer is the goal of present medical research. Hundreds of thousands of pounds are being spent every year on cancer research; the public are continually being asked to subscribe to cancer research, yet little or nothing has been achieved.

In 1926 I stated that cancer was caused, fundamentally, by a faulty blood condition.

The researches of Dr. Bendien, the Dutch expert, are stated to have revealed the same thing: that cancer is due to chemical changes in the blood condition.

Dr. Robert Bell summed up his conclusions on cancer in these words: 'Cancer is most assuredly a disease dependent for its origin upon a prolonged contaminated condition of the blood . . . We know that fungus only grows in unhealthy soil or upon decaying material. The same holds good with cancer. . . .'

In the last three years I have given the greater part of my time to a study of this disease and I have formed, from the facts that I have observed, certain conclusions.

First that operative measures for the cure of cancer are useless; that radium is just as hopeless in the majority of cases as a curative agent, its use being a dangerous experiment that does not seem justified by the results;



No. 38. DEATH FROM HEART DISEASE

The above micro-photograph shows the Heart line beginning to fray and ultimately breaking, indicating danger of death from heart disease.

This imprint was taken three months before the patient's death.



## Cancer

that any hope of cure depends on the *early detection of the developing predisposition*, and that its cause is a definite virus or toxin.

The scientific survey of the hand will reveal a predisposition to cancer, or the beginnings of its development. *And if it is detected early enough then its treatment and cure is a comparatively easy matter.* Even in advanced stages it is possible to check its further development, by means of vaccines, without resorting to surgical methods of treatment.

*Undoubtedly the successful treatment of cancer is in being able to 'balance' the chemistry of the body and bring it back to normal after having eliminated the virus.*

Vaccine treatment I have proved to be very successful in eliminating the actual virus, after which it is an easy matter to restore chemical 'balance'.

In the *British Homœopathic Journal*, July 1932, there appeared a paper on the treatment of cancer by a Dr. W. Guyon Richards, and in this he states: 'I believe a "cure" by a single remedy of any group of cases is quite impossible, as individuals vary so much. The whole of my research shows me that the restoration of health means treating the individual.'

With this I quite agree.

While the hand shows plainly the existence of a cancerous predisposition the cause is subject to some variation. There are stages in cancer development, and to determine the actual stage of development is a very important matter.

During the last four or five years I have been able to detect some hundreds of cancer cases *in the early stages of development*, and by sending these people for treatment the ultimate development of an extensive cancerous malignancy has been prevented.

Quite recently a woman consulted me with regard to

## Diagnosis

her health. She had been under medical treatment for some long time *for indigestion and general debility*. Her hand showed a definite cancer virus present with the beginnings of structural changes in certain tissues. I sent her to a specialist at once for treatment. His examination revealed the beginnings of a small growth. He has been able to cure the condition by treatment. And an imprint of her hands taken a week ago shows no signs of any virus; the malignant condition has completely disappeared.

Often the cancerous condition is so far developed that nothing can be done. I had one case, a woman, who had been treated for rheumatism for a matter of two years. Her hand revealed an extensive cancerous condition, a hopeless case. In fact, death was imminent although she had felt no marked pain beyond 'rheumatic aches'. She died very suddenly three weeks later and only experienced any acute pain during the last few hours.

I have found that in nearly all cancer cases there are indications of some emotional repression. It seems that the body becomes very fully charged with unused energy; this is not true of all cases, but is true of the majority of uterine cancer cases.

The first indications of some serious condition of the body is to be observed in the woolly appearance of the actual lines. This is an indication of the presence of some toxin. Then there are generally some indications of acidity emanating from both faulty intestinal activity and kidney action. *There always exist some indications of auto-intoxication*; and a predisposition to rheumatism is shewn, if not an actual rheumatic condition.

On the Mount of Luna there are numbers of minute lines with some malformation of the actual skin ridges; this is an indication of faulty bowel action.

With these indications you have a marked predis-

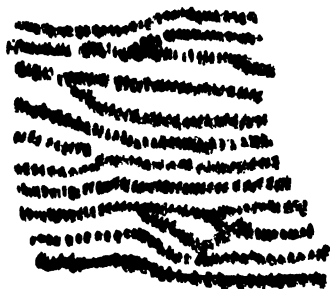
## Cancer

position for a cancerous malignancy. At this stage the condition can generally be eliminated by dietetic methods. The sluggish activity of the bowel is the first point of correction. And by following this with the elimination of the acidulous tendency the ultimate balancing of the chemistry of the body is comparatively easy.

If, just under the end of the Head line, there is a malformed patch of skin's ridges as in Diagram 39, this indicates the actual presence of a cancer virus.

If, in addition, there are extensive indications of toxic alteration in the ridges of the skin this proves a malignant condition. In these cases the Life line shows either a gradual thinning to end in a frayed tassel formation or an increasing thickness caused by an increase in the woolliness of the line's edge.

Cancer, from these researches, shows three stages of development. First the general auto-intoxication of the body; then the virus stage; and finally the actual malignant cancerous condition. There are, of course, several intermediate stages.



No. 39. THE ABOVE DIAGRAM SHOWS THE TYPICAL MALFORMATION OF THE SKIN'S RIDGES WHEN THERE EXISTS A CANCER VIRUS

Not only in the case of cancer, but in most cases of major disease, the chemical balance of the body is of



## Diagnosis

vital importance. And I have found that where the body is perfectly balanced chemically there is great immunity. Upset the chemical balance, by any means, and the degree of immunity is considerably reduced. In fact, it constitutes a preparation for the inception of disease. Once the soil is prepared infection will follow as a natural sequence.

These facts, and any indications of a toxic condition of the body, from whatever cause, calls attention to diet and general hygiene. If the lack of chemical balance is very marked you will be wise to advise the subject to consult a medical practitioner. Treatment is outside the scope of this study.

In cases of a cancerous predisposition the avoidance of any foods that will contribute to the general state of auto-intoxication is absolutely necessary.

In due course medical research will decide that cancer *is fundamentally a blood condition*. The medical profession will ultimately aim at prevention; in all suspect cases they will consider the chemistry of the body, the individual chemical composition of the patient. And they will consider more carefully and more fully the *individual food needs of each case that is brought before them*.

. . . . .

I have stressed the need for a close examination of the individual psychological composition in its relation to health and disease. In some cases I have found that the fundamental beginnings of diseased conditions have been due to the lack of psychological balance.

Where there is a long-continued emotional repression, with a marked mental dissatisfaction productive of general restlessness and some nervous tension, this often causes such a chemical change as will produce the beginnings of auto-intoxication.

I had one case, a married woman. She was normally

## Malaria

healthy, that is, not having any marked inherited predispositions to ill-health. Very highly sexed. This condition had developed in the first two or three years of married life. For no apparent reason the sexual activities of the husband became very infrequent and finally stopped. This bothered and annoyed the wife. The sexual urges gradually increased in strength and produced in her a feeling of dissatisfaction, and a marked restlessness. She herself had hardly realized what was happening. Then she began to feel vaguely unwell; there were no definite symptoms of any particular condition of ill-health.

The hand of this woman exhibited the characteristic changes connected with the early stages of auto-intoxication. The only cause in this case was the 'unconscious' emotional repression.

Where the bodily temperature is 'normally' high you will find that the sweat glands in the skin's ridges are clearly discernible in an imprint.

In these cases is indicated a predisposition to diseases of a feverish nature. It is wise always to warn such people that they are particularly susceptible to such illnesses and that they should, so far as possible, always avoid possible sources of infection.

Where, just below the end of the Head line on the edge of the Mount of Luna, you find a patch of circular holes in the skin's ridges, there is an indication of malaria. And if the actual parasite has ceased to exist, merely the toxin left from a former infection, then the skin's ridges in this position will show a serrated edge.

In a diabetic condition the skin's ridges show a characteristic granulation which extends down the outer palmar side of the hand; if you draw an imaginary line from the third finger to the wrist, between this line and the edge of the hand you will find the skin's ridges very finely granulated in appearance.

## Diagnosis

Any extensive patch of perpendicular lines extending from just beneath the Heart line below the little finger, down to the actual Mount of Luna, with malformations in the actual ridges, indicates some infection of the kidneys or bladder.

If there are only the fine perpendicular lines and no malformation in the composition of the ridges, then it is an indication of a functional disorder rather than a pathological condition.

It is quite impossible, in a book of this kind, to consider in anything like scientific detail, the vast subject of disease. It is even a very difficult matter to generalize in an effective way. The sole aim of this section of the book is to serve as a practical introduction to palmistic diagnosis.

It would be quite possible to write a separate volume on insanity as shewn in the hand. A great deal more could be said about the chemistry of the body and the endocrine activity as shewn by the palmar markings, but there would be a danger of confusing the student.

I am certain that if the fundamental principles as given are applied in a logical and deductive manner, you will be surprised how easy it will be to get practical and valuable information from the human hand with a little practice.

I would stress the importance of deduction in connection with diagnosis. For example, insanity is an extremely difficult thing to determine. There is no definable and definite distinction between some abnormal mental states and actual insanity. There is a species of alternation in many such cases, similar to the alternation of subconscious and conscious mental control.

I have often seen it stated that a large island in the formation of the Head line is an indication of a period of insanity. I have examined the hands of some three

## Insanity

hundred certified lunatics, and in some of these cases the actual Head lines are amazingly good.

Certainly there have been very few islanded formations discernable in the whole three hundred hands; that is, single large clear islands. Where there are indications of an island in the Head line, if this is small, then it merely indicates a period of mental strain, a period during which the subject was using mental ability under great pressure. Such as, for example, studying for some particularly difficult examination.

If there is one large island in the middle of the Head line then it still indicates mental strain, but a strain that might be caused by several things; either circumstances surrounding the life or some form of ill-health or domestic worry predisposing to a temporary aberration.

If the Head line ends in an island it is an indication of some danger of loss of memory towards the end of life. A species of natural sequence to the natural process of disintegration.

If this islanded formation is shewn just prior to the end of the Head line, then it is an indication of a temporary aberration of the mind; the subject would often put things down and then forget where they had been placed; would forget times and dates, he and his memory would work 'spasmodically'.

An actual state or condition of insanity is dependent on some permanent lack of mental and emotional co-ordination. There are many causes. Very often the fundamental cause is a marked lack of psychological balance; many psychological factors in equal strength and in entire opposition. Such cases are easily detected in the hand by the analytical deductive process of reasoning.

It is a much more difficult matter for the amateur to discover any mental disorder that has its origin in some

## Diagnosis

morbid pathological condition. Such conditions show in a Head line that is marked in its actual composition, with the minute indications of bacterial activity. There would be a definite woolliness of the Head line with minute indentations in the actual line.

A careful examination of the other sections of the hand would soon reveal the seat of the trouble.

Marked mental deficiency is shewn by the malformation of the thumb and the actual Head line. The Head lines in the hands of idiots are generally short and very much fretted with small islanded formations. Cretins possess such blatant malformations of the hands that any diagnosis of such cases is a matter of great ease to anyone who knows anything at all about hands.

The student must bear in mind that there is always some difference between the right and left hands of the same subject. This difference is very important, particularly when dealing with general health conditions.

You will often find that the left hand is normal, while the alterations shewn in the right are abnormal. This points to developing psychological defect, or even actual insanity.

The markings of the left hand show the general inherited disposition and character—the inherited predispositions for good or bad health. If you find signs of a normal digestion in the left hand, while the right shows indications of digestive weakness—then this digestive trouble is developing, and has some definite cause apart from any inherited tendency.

If the left hand shows signs of a weak digestion and the indications of this are more decided in the right hand, it then shows an inherited predisposition for digestive trouble that is developing.

This process of an estimative comparison of the two hands applies to all aspects of our study. A weak Via

## Individual Needs

Lasciva in the left hand but with a much larger one showing in the right indicates a developed craving for excitement.

You will find that these comparisons will supply most valuable information regarding sexual developments; the Heart line, and the Girdle of Venus are subject to most definite alterations in the two hands.

A weak Head line, with a small cross under the end of the Head line—which indicates self-deception—plus a very well-developed Mount of Saturn, are the indications of a marked predisposition to suicide. These people are liable to become dangerously and depressively morbid.

Sexual mental troubles are easily diagnosed. The hand would show an excess of sex emotion by the formations of the Heart line and the Girdle of Venus which increases stimulative responsiveness; while the thumb and Head lines would plainly show lack of control.

The diagnosis of abnormalities or actual insanity, is merely the simple detection either of pathological conditions of the brain or of abnormal psychological incompatibilities.

I draw the attention of the student to the manner in which the actual lines of the hand are marked. Where the lines are fine and numerous it is a certain indication of great nerve activity. The constitution is, in these cases, 'wiry' rather than physically robust.

Where the lines are deep and broad it indicates a more physical type of nervous energy. The deep broad lines also indicate some emotional repression.

These palmistic researches have indicated an imperative need for the consideration of individual cases, and the successful diagnostician should never use any 'rule of thumb' methods of diagnosis. A great deal of the increase in the number of malignant conditions treated

## Diagnosis

to-day is being caused by medical inattention to the individual chemical needs in trifling or apparently trifling ailments.

Quite recently I was asked to examine the hand of a man suffering from neurasthenia, a vague term that has little significance. The sole treatment was numerous tonics.

The imprints of his hands revealed the characteristic malformations of the skin's ridges, indicating a bacterial infection, which was a form of paratyphoid. An examination by a specialist confirmed this diagnosis, and competent treatment resulted in complete recovery. But what would have happened if that intestinal infection had not been discovered?

I do not wish to infer that palmistic diagnosis is infallible, but I do say that it is less fallible than many of the more orthodox systems of diagnosis. They sometimes consist of a cursory glance and a question as to the type of pain. It is not entirely the fault of the general practitioner, as in many cases it is quite impossible for him to make an examination—that is a detailed and careful examination—of every case that walks into his consulting room, particularly when he has a very extensive panel practice.

The factor of Time renders anything like a detailed examination impossible. But I do blame medical men for not enquiring more closely into the fundamental causes responsible for *continued* debility, rheumatism, neuritis, sciatica and indigestion. And I am certain that if a little more trouble were taken with cases of apparently trifling ailments that are proving obstinate, there would occur a decrease in malignant disease.

It has been said that, 'a little knowledge is a dangerous thing'. This is perfectly true, but it is only a 'little knowledge' that the wisest of us can possess. The mis-

## Discretion

take that we so often make is in pandering to our vanity and stubbornly refusing to admit that, after all, we only possess a 'little knowledge', and by pretending to a knowledge that we do not possess.

There is only one course to be followed by any practitioner. An opinion should never be given unless the practitioner is certain that he is correct, and when he is uncertain he should say so.

I advise the student to make it a rule to be candidly honest, and if you do not know the cause of a condition or if you are uncertain, do not be afraid to say so; but if you are quite sure that you do know, do not be afraid to express your opinion. Time will probably prove you either right or wrong.

Remember the hand will not tell you a lie, but you must first learn to read its signs and indications, and once you have mastered the basic principles of their interpretation you need have no fear.

One other word of advice to the student. In such an intimate study as this you will find all sorts of queer things. You will learn many secrets. You must learn to be as silent as the grave and never to discuss with other people the problems of those who may ask your advice. A carelessly guarded tongue can easily cause tragedy. Whenever you are asked, as you will be asked, 'You have seen So-and so's hand I hear. What do you think of it?' Politely inform the questioner that you yourself have forgotten what it was like. Never answer curious questions.

Silence is your obvious duty, and when you make statements appertaining to the health condition of the individual, you must be very discreet. You must bear in mind that the power of suggestion is very potent, and that it is quite possible, by making an indiscreet statement, to assist the inception of disease or seriously



## Diagnosis

to retard recovery. Also you must remember that knowledge is without finality, and that however expert you may become there is always something more to be learnt.

## Chapter XI

### Practical Hand Reading

#### An Examination of Some Actual Cases

*'Truth is stranger than fiction'*, trite, but true. How true you will only realize after you have examined, intimately, some thousands of human hands.

In my studies I have been impressed with the many obvious imperfections of human nature. These studies have discovered a great deal that is mean and stupid, sometimes things that are very beast-like. But there is also much that is very fine, good and noble in humanity.

It requires a crisis, as a rule, to bring out the best that is in us, and it is only when we are faced with the need for sacrifice that we are able to discover any real greatness that may dwell within, hidden and shyly silent; waiting patiently for the moment of action that is to astonish us, and those who think they know us. There is, I believe, much more good than evil in humanity and perhaps the greatest fault is an intolerant stupidity.

Certainly this characteristic trait has been, in the past, the cause of much trouble and bloodshed. While there is a greater tolerance existing to-day, a greater understanding, there is also a much finer poise of national prejudices. Man has created conditions and rules of living—civilization, but he has also created conditions and weapons that threatened the destruction of this system of civilization.

## Practical Hand Reading

But as you progress with these intimate studies of human activities so will you begin to realize more and more how important are the mental attitudes of individuals. And those who are engaged in the delicate work of psychological adjustment are, in reality, engaged in a work of national importance.

You must realize your responsibilities. A great deal may depend on what you say; your advice may be the means of altering the whole course of a life, your words may mean the difference between success or failure, happiness or sorrow.

I most earnestly advise you to deal with things as they are, not with things as you would like to see them. You must shed all your personal prejudices and forget your own small philosophies; you must face facts. Cultivate patience and exercise a meticulous care in your observations.

In your preliminary survey of a hand bear in mind this fact: that the individual conception of life, which determines individual action, is dependent on the type and strength of the fundamental psychological factors. Your first task should be the detection of psychological defects.

*Do not be too hasty in your conclusions drawn from the actual formation of the Fate line—the changes or any unsatisfactory markings shewn in this line may be caused by defects in the individual, rather than by the actual circumstances surrounding the life.*

All the cases quoted in this chapter are actual cases from my own practice, and by a close study of these the student should be able readily to grasp the main principle of scientific hand reading—the principle of deductive reasoning.

# An Examination of Some Actual Cases

## A Destructive Inheritance

Some two years ago I was asked to give an opinion on the imprint reproduced in Illustration 40. This is the hand of a young man of twenty-four.

I warned this man that there were some very serious psychological defects in his character which, unless corrected, would not only produce trouble and difficulty, but might even cause disgrace.

I pointed out the fact that he found it very difficult to speak the truth; the Apollo and Mercury fingers are very curved; this indicates a tactfulness that produces the liar.

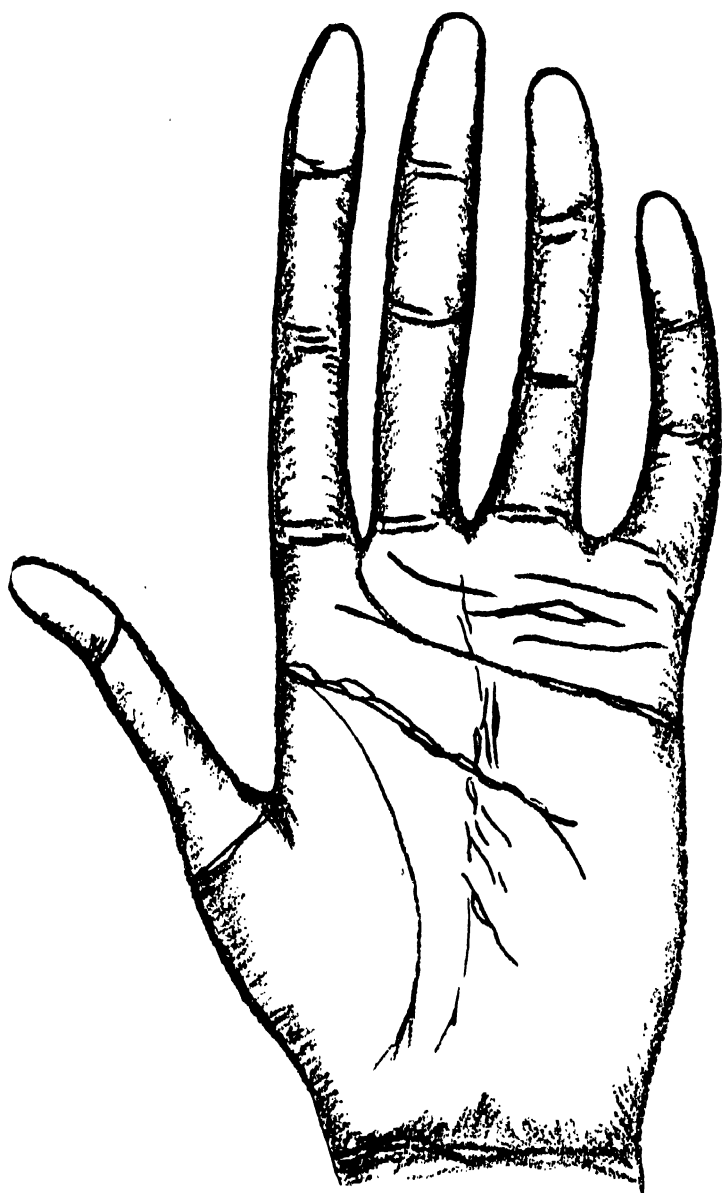
The first finger is very long, nearly equal to the second finger in length; this indicates desire for power and as its termination is pointed it produces vanity.

The thumb shows intelligence by the length of the second phalange, but the top joint is very short and inclined to bend back away from the hand, a weak impulsive will.

The actual Head line is long but very islanded, an indication of some lack of concentrative ability due to a deficiency in the chemistry of the blood.

The Heart Line is long and straight, the formation of this line indicating a marked feminine sexual streak; the sexual urges are more of a mental type than actually physical. And with the very broken Girdle of Venus, marked across the mounts, it indicates a high degree of emotional sensitivity. This combination produces a very sensuous type of person.

This man was unofficially engaged; he volunteered the information that he had never even attempted to have sexual intercourse with his fiancée. I believed that, but when I suggested that he had engaged in some



No. 40. A DESTRUCTIVE INHERITANCE

## A Destructive Inheritance

sexual masturbative practices with her, he admitted that this was true.

The imprint makes this an obvious conclusion.

The weak will, the strong emotional responsiveness and the high degree of sensuality make any other conclusion impossible.

He had worked in hotels at the beginning of his career and had been initiated into the secrets of sexual practices at the early age of twelve by immoral servant girls.

Without education, lacking the stabilizing influence of good parents and a decent home, or any of the more refining influences that are inherited, this man was doomed to difficulty and stood in grave danger of disaster.

I did my best—but I knew that the chances of success were slender indeed. I proved that he was a liar, a deliberate and unnecessary liar; it was very difficult, if not impossible, for this man to speak the truth.

A little while later he brought his fiancée to see me. She was just an ordinary simple kindly soul, not overburdened with intelligence, but honest.

She was very worried; she loved this man, but while she enjoyed his love-making she was afraid. She confirmed my deductions of sensuous sexual manipulations. She told me that there had never been any actual sexual intercourse, and her hands confirmed this, but her fiancé had sometimes worked her to such a pitch of sexual frenzy that she had even offered herself to him. But he had, so far, refused to take her.

Obviously this was not because of any virtuous scruples on his part. The indications, the psychological indications, have been proved. Six months ago this man took advantage of the girl and she is 'in trouble'.

The Fate line in his hand is broken, with many

## Practical Hand Reading

'affection' lines running up to affect the main Fate line. This proves that his abnormal sexual cravings will bring disaster to his life. Note the first difficulty, the islanded 'affection' line causing difficulties in the career—the probable loss of his job.

Unless, which I very much doubt, Fate gives to this man some very honest worthy friendship that is also very powerful, his life will end in disgrace. There is a very definite danger of the inverted sexual tendencies shewn in the formation of this straight Heart line developing later in life.

Here is tragedy, stark and real. A man born without a chance, given a rotten inheritance, perverted instincts, and left to the mercy of an unreasoning world. A world that is cold and unsympathetic.

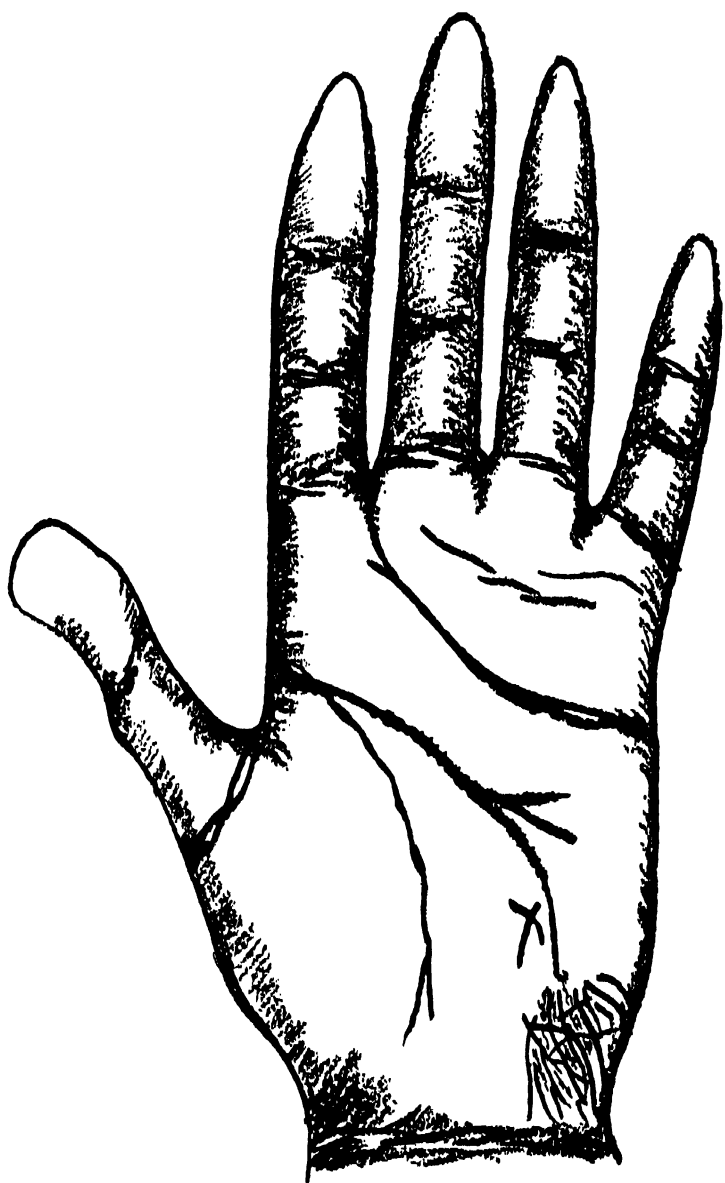
Truly might he quote:

'O Thou, who didst with pitfall and with gin  
Beset the Road I was to wander in,  
Thou wilt not with Predestined Evil round  
Enmesh, and then impute my Fall to Sin.'

## Non Compos Mentis

Illustration 41 is an exact reproduction of the right hand of a woman of thirty-eight years of age. The fingers are short with rather pointed terminations; a quick intuitive and slightly idealistic type of mind is indicated by these fingers.

Now observe the actual lines of the hand. The Head line curves down to a triple fork, one branch running on to the Mount of Luna. The triple fork, if *well balanced*, is good. But in this case it indicates indecision and uncertainty. Also, the actual Head line shows a decided fluffiness, a sign of the existence of some bacterial toxin affecting mental processes.



No. 41. NON COMPOS MENTIS



## Practical Hand Reading

The Heart line curves well down to the outer edge of the hand; a strong sexual type, but with the mounts, as they are, very highly developed, the affections are unstable. They are subject to change with the moods. There are indications in this hand of a serious internal defect, an actual bacterial activity.

Just under the end of the Head line there is a small cross formation, indicating a dislike of facts and a tendency to self-deception. This woman was craving for love. She said she could not live without love. She was, when she first came to see me, engaged in an intrigue with a bookmaker—a particularly unscrupulous type of man, not that bookmakers as a class are unscrupulous.

I told her that the best thing she could do was to stop this affair as it would not lead to anything but unhappiness. She had taken the precaution of bringing imprints of this man's hands with her. She refused to end the intrigue. But it did end later with pain and tears and the loss of a hundred pounds, which she had to pay to get rid of him.

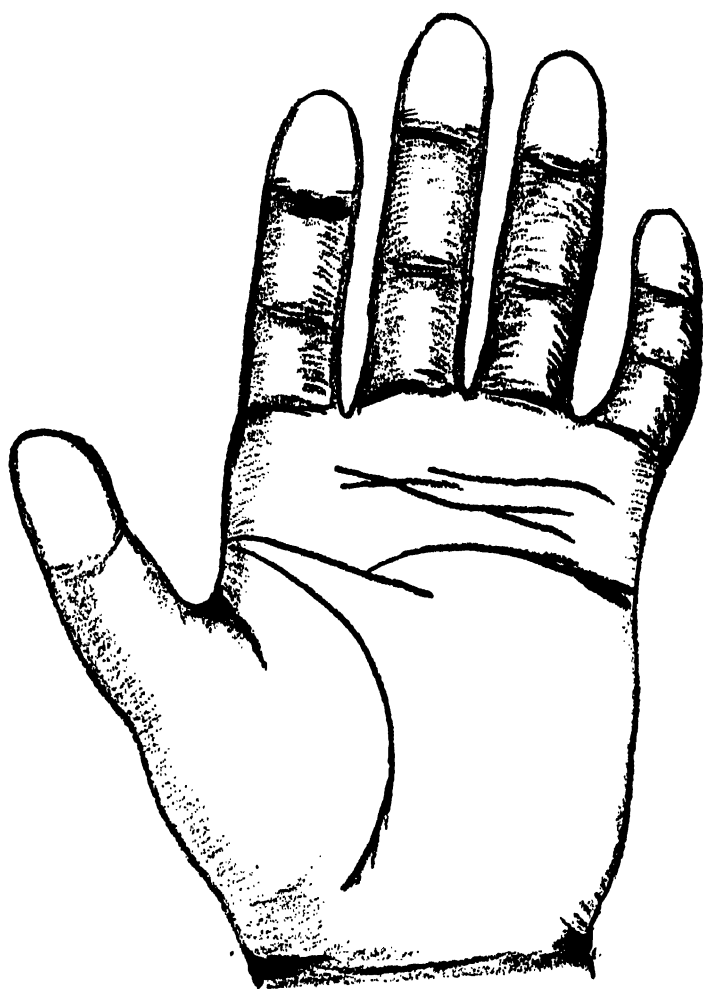
Here is a case for medical attention.

This woman is really ill, both mentally and physically. I advised her to see a specialist. She most definitely refused.

In moments of deep depression she contemplates suicide. She even rang me up one night and told me that she had decided to end her life. I spoke to her very forcibly and told her it was just the silly sort of thing one would expect her to do. She has not yet committed suicide—but she might.

The thumb is supple, as well as thick at the top joint. The Mount of Saturn is very high, indicating a morbid emotional tendency, and she might kill herself in an impulsive emotional frenzy.

There are many minute lines on the Mount of Luna,



No. 42. AN UNSCRUPULOUS TYPE

## Practical Hand Reading

with the characteristic malformation of the ridge lines of the skin which indicates a pathological condition of the ovaries.

First, the mind is unstable; coupled with this mental instability there is a very powerful sexual desire which had been repressed for many years. The lines on this hand are all thick, an indication of repression. The idealistic trend is in opposition to the demands, the physical demands, of the body. The general instability is accentuated by the internal pathological condition.

The whole perspective of life is distorted and unstable. And the increased ovarian activity at the onset of the monthly period produces a marked melancholia.

The problem that faces this woman would not exist if she were normal. Her life is just a hopeless muddle, but its fundamental cause is pathological and not, as she thinks, material. It is herself that is all wrong, not material circumstances.

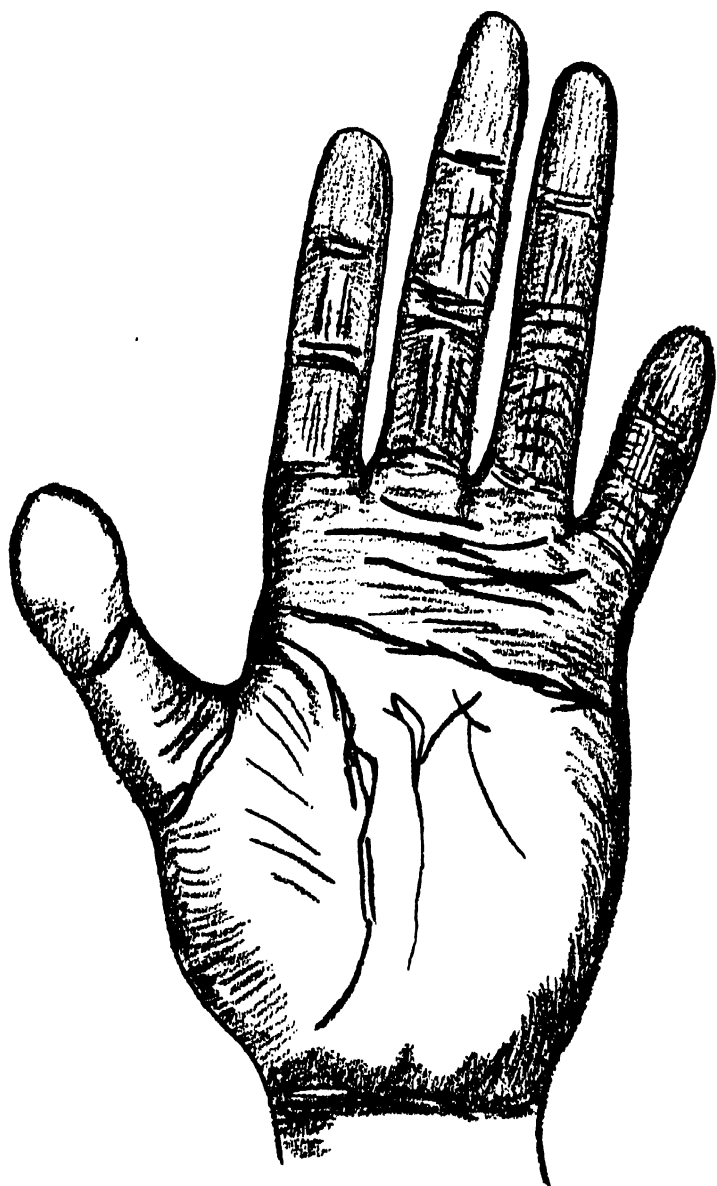
But if she will not consent to medical treatment nothing can be done. One can only hope that the general health condition will improve naturally, and so help to give a more normal mental outlook.

## An Unscrupulous Type

Illustration 42 is the hand of a man aged forty. The fingers are short and thick, indicating a quick brute type of mind—the top joints of the fingers are abnormally short indicating a brutal type of intelligence.

The thumb is very heavy and squat—a very obstinate type of mind. The Head line is straight and short—a very practical and materialistic mentality.

Note how the Heart line dips down to touch the Head line. This is an indication of brutal determination, particularly where the 'affections' are concerned.



No. 43. MURDER

## Practical Hand Reading

True affection would be quite unknown to this man, for he would be incapable of any emotion approaching real affection—it would be a animal sex attraction.

There is a well-marked Girdle of Venus—this increases the sensuous tendency. A Girdle of Venus in such a brutal hand always increases the sexual tendencies, but there is a lacking of any refinement, and it is a sheer brute lust.

This man has made money, but the Fate line in the actual hand is not particularly good—indicating dissatisfaction with his success—and his conscience troubles him. He has progressed materially through being utterly unscrupulous. He left his wife to die, neglected and alone, while he consorted with immoral women.

The little finger is very crooked; this indicates a natural cunning which has enabled him to be unscrupulous with minimum danger to himself.

### Murder

Illustration 43 is the hand of a man executed for the murder of his wife.

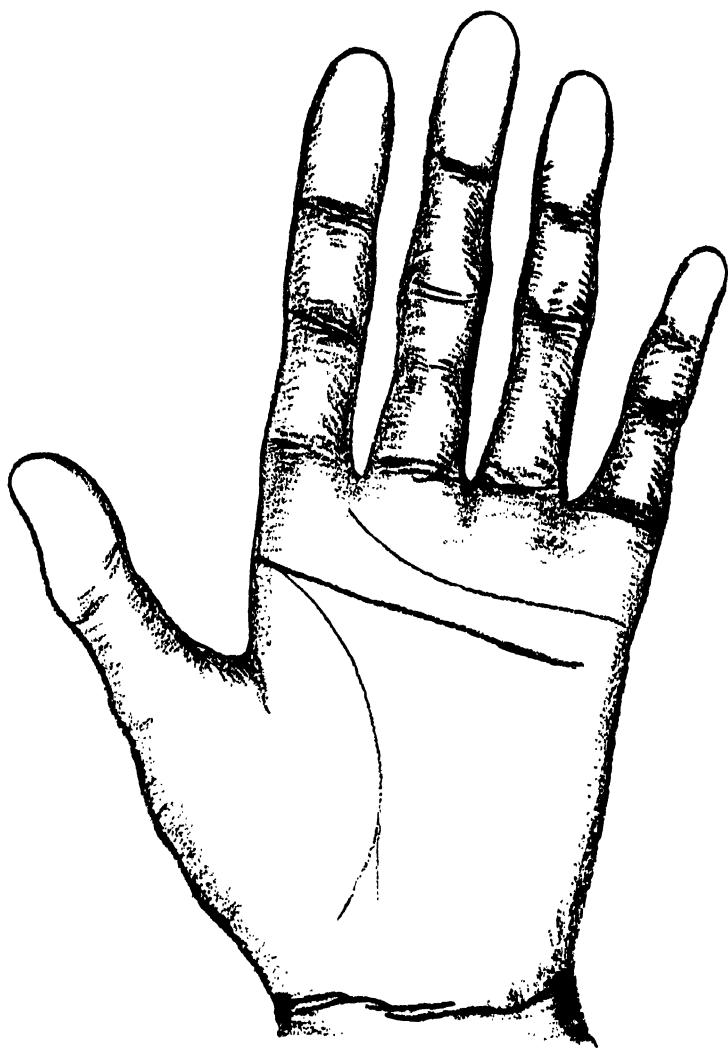
Note the thick top joint of the thumb, indicating a very strong, brutal type of determination.

The Head and Heart lines are joined to form one line across the palmar surface, this indicates great tenacity of purpose, but with such a thumb it betrays a blind unreasoning obstinacy.

There is a well-marked Girdle of Venus, indicating a high degree of sensuality.

The little finger is short indicating a lack of diplomatic ability, the tendency to act with disconcerting directness.

This man killed his wife in a fit of jealous passion, and it is interesting to observe how the Fate line shows a small islanded formation just prior to its termination.



No. 44. INCOMPATIBILITY OF TEMPERAMENT—  
HUSBAND

# Practical Hand Reading

## Incompatibility of Temperament

Illustration 44 is the hand of a man aged forty-one.

The fingers are waisted and long, indicating a thoughtful and calculative type of mind.

The thumb is well shaped with a fairly heavy top joint; this thumb indicates intelligence and strong will-power; this man would be very determined.

The actual Head line is very long and very straight, devoid of any islanded formations. This Head line betrays thought and a strong logical and materialistic tendency of the mind. The indications of the Head line are accentuated by the formation of the fingers and thumb.

The Heart line is high on the hand and is fairly straight; this line indicates a 'mental' type of sexuality, but the Heart line being high on the hand reason and cold logic rule the slight passion indicated.

This man would be quite incapable of any appreciation of romance and anything approaching physical passion would prove actually distasteful to him.

As there is no Girdle of Venus, there is a lack of any emotional sensitivity.

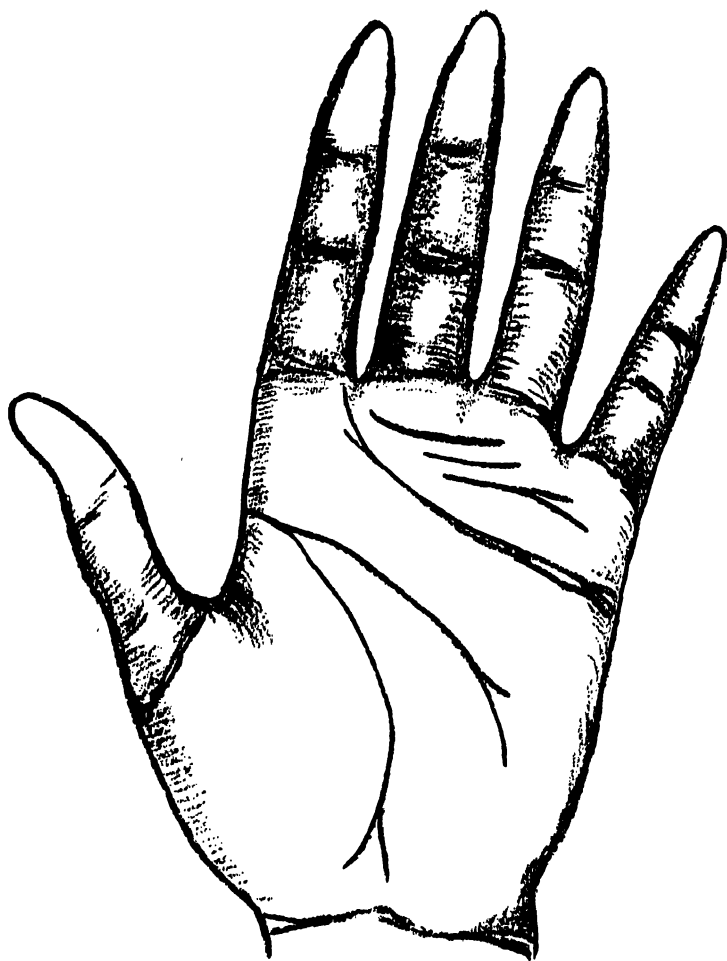
Illustration 45 is the hand of his wife.

The fingers are short and slightly pointed, indicating a quick and rather artistic type of mentality.

The thumb is supple, indicating a marked impetuosity.

The Head line curves down towards the Mount of Luna, indicating an imaginative and romantic type of mind. This, with the supple thumb, produces some instability of action.

The actual Heart line curves well down to the outer edge of the hand betraying strong sex instincts, and a generous sympathetic nature.



No. 45. INCOMPATIBILITY OF TEMPERAMENT-  
WIFE



## Practical Hand Reading

There is a well-marked Girdle of Venus which shows, in this hand, emotional sensitivity.

Therefore a glance at the two hands will show a marked incompatibility of temperament.

How could the man, with his cold logic and his materialistic outlook appreciate the romantic emotionalism of the woman? And how could she ever understand the lack of emotion in the man?

As I had predicted, this marriage was doomed to failure. Time has proved this to be correct. These people, while still good friends, are living apart.

### Lack of Stability

Illustration 46 is the hand of one of life's failures; a man of forty-three years of age. This hand plainly shows the lack of psychological balance that has been the fundamental cause of failure.

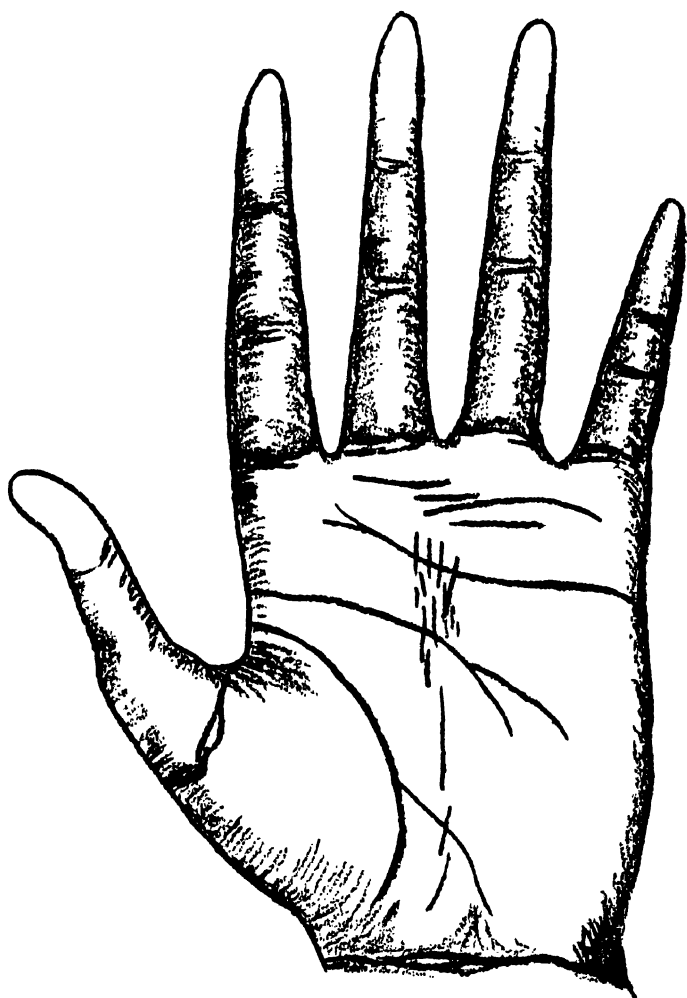
The fingers are long, thin and pointed, indicating an artistic and rather idealistic tendency.

The thumb is supple. The top joint is thin, showing a lack of will-power.

The Head line commences with an 'open' formation, which alone indicates a rash impetuous mind, the type of mind that would 'jump at conclusions'. This impulsive tendency is accentuated by the supple thumb. Impulsiveness alone, therefore, produces instability and must seriously affect the material aspect of this man's life.

The Head line is of an imaginative, romantic type; and the third finger is abnormally long, equal in length to the second; this shows an optimistic nature. People with long third fingers of this type are inclined to view life very much as a gamble.

Branching away from the Life line there is a 'travel'



No. 46. LACK OF STABILITY

## Practical Hand Reading

line, which scientifically speaking, merely indicates a very restless disposition.

The combination of these psychological factors produces instability and an entire lack of directional will-power.

It is interesting in such cases to observe the formation of the Fate line. It is broken in many places, and just above the Head line it breaks into many minute lines, showing diversity of interest and great variety, but without success in any one direction.

## Health Affecting Mind

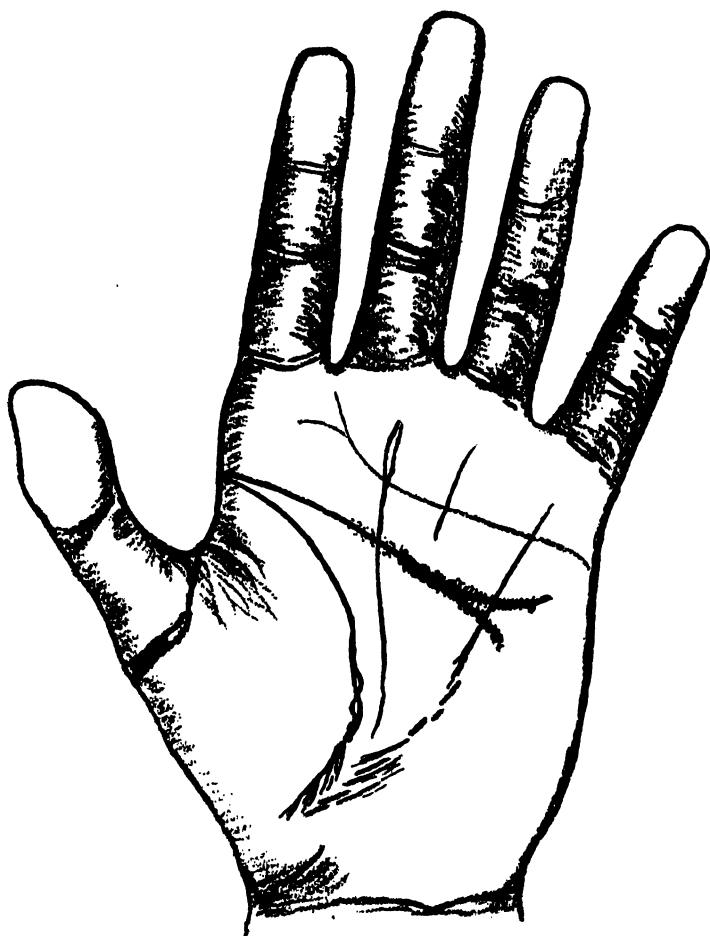
Illustration 47 is the hand of a business woman aged forty-six. The fingers are short and squarish, indicating organizing ability. The thumb is firm, showing intelligence and a normally strong will.

The Head line runs out in a gentle curve to end in a forked formation, the top fork being slightly longer than the lower, this proving a development of practical business abilities.

The Life line becomes islanded about half-way down, and then there appear fine drooping lines branching from the main Life line. The islanded formation indicates the commencement of some form of ill-health. Gradually merging into a tassel-like formation it indicates its progression and development.

Observe the Health line running from the Mount of Mercury down to the outer edge of the hand, sloping in towards the Life line. This gradually becomes broken, indicating an increasing development of faulty digestive action.

In the formation of the Head line there gradually appears a number of minute dots causing the line to assume a fluffy appearance at the edge. The digestive



No. 47. HEALTH AFFECTING MIND

## Practical Hand Reading

weakness is obviously producing toxins that are affecting mental processes, and the Fate line ends in a long thin island, which indicates worry and anxiety produced by ill-health and obviously not by material circumstances.

Medical treatment will probably be successful in curing the physical disability, in which case the island on the Fate line should disappear.

### A Waste of Time

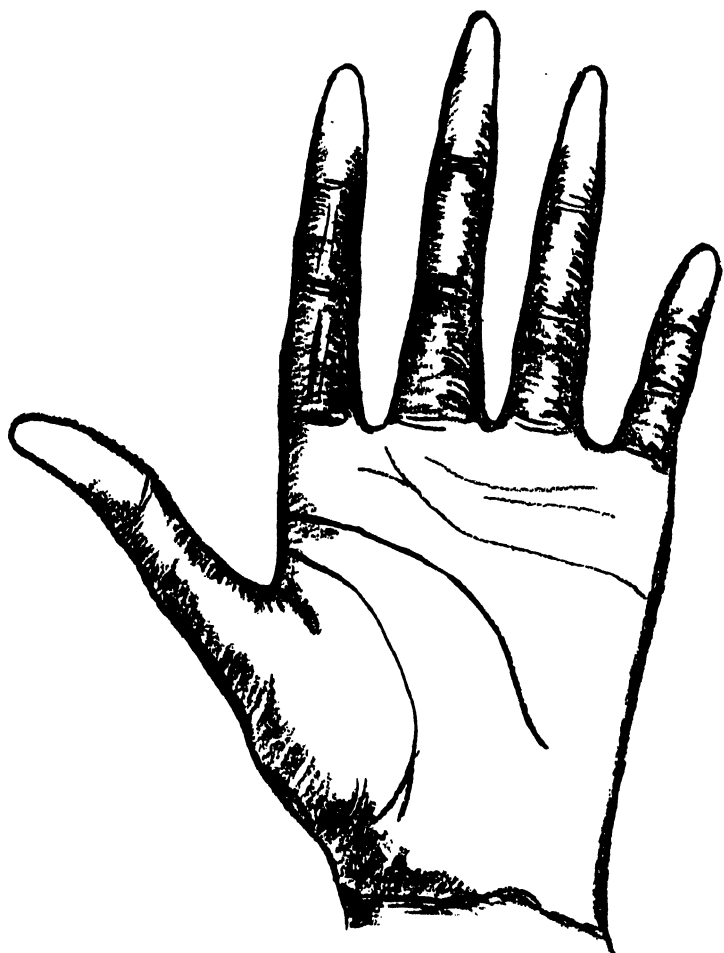
I have already advised the student to observe a meticulous truthfulness, but I also warn him that truth is not always liked, and an honest palmist is not always popular, but you would be making a very big mistake if you courted popularity at the expense of your veracity. Here is a typical example of what so very often happens.

I was asked to examine the hand of a young lady. (This hand is reproduced in Illustration 48.) She was about to embark on a stage career, and her adoring family could only see her as an embryonic Bernhardt. Naturally the one question that I was breathlessly asked by the parents was: 'Will she be successful in her stage career?'

I replied: 'I am afraid that your daughter will never be an actress. Beyond the possession of an appreciative artistic faculty and a certain emotional impetuosity she has no ability for the stage. I would advise her to go into business, particularly an artistic business, such as beauty culture or something of that type.'

Naturally my verdict was a crushing blow to all their hopes; in fact, although they tried manfully not to show it, they were very angry with me, and the lady's mother tried to be mildly sarcastic.

A friend who was present said to me afterwards:



No. 48. AN IMPETUOUS TYPE

## Practical Hand Reading

'You know, Jaquin, you have put your foot in it. Those people think their daughter is marvellous.' I said: 'Well, if they were afraid of the truth why did they pay me to tell it to them? And after all, if I had told them that she was marvellous, and then she fails miserably I am still unpopular!'

Observe the long pointed fingers, which are definitely of an idealistic, artistic type.

The outer edge of the hand from the little finger to the wrist is straight, showing an entire lack of any creative ability.

The thumb is supple, showing impetuosity, while the Head line curves down towards Luna, showing a vivid imagination.

There are no indications in this hand of any histrionic ability. It betrays an idealistic, impulsive character.

The commencement of the Head line is 'open'. This formation in conjunction with a supple thumb indicates an entire lack of concentrative ability, an ability so essential to success on the stage. This lack of staying power would alone prevent success in this direction.

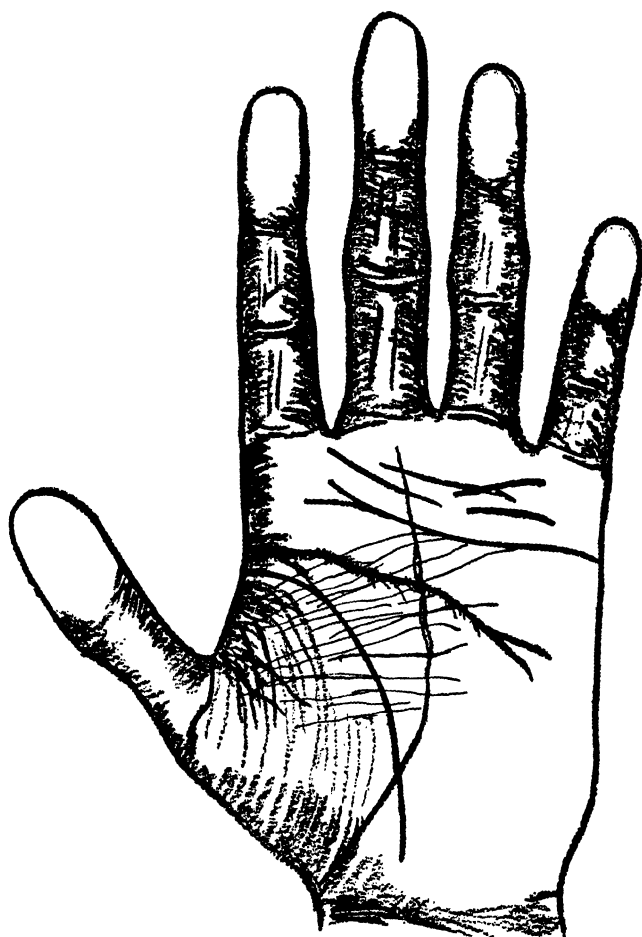
Time proved that my verdict was correct. This girl came to London and eventually left the stage. I believe she is now a saleswoman. Her chances of success are much greater in such work.

## Emotional Sensitivity

Illustration 49 is the hand of a man of thirty-eight years of age. The fingers are long and slightly waisted, indicating a thoughtful and rather critical mentality.

The thumb shows intelligence and a strong will.

The Head line commences with an 'open' formation, showing impetuosity. This formation is in apparent contradiction to the indications of the top joint of the



No. 49. EMOTIONAL SENSITIVITY



## Practical Hand Reading

thumb, which shows determination. Actually this combination indicates danger of the subject being *impulsively determined*.

Observe the actual formation of the Head line. This is fretted by numbers of fine drooping lines and indentations, which indicate a spasmodic worrying tendency.

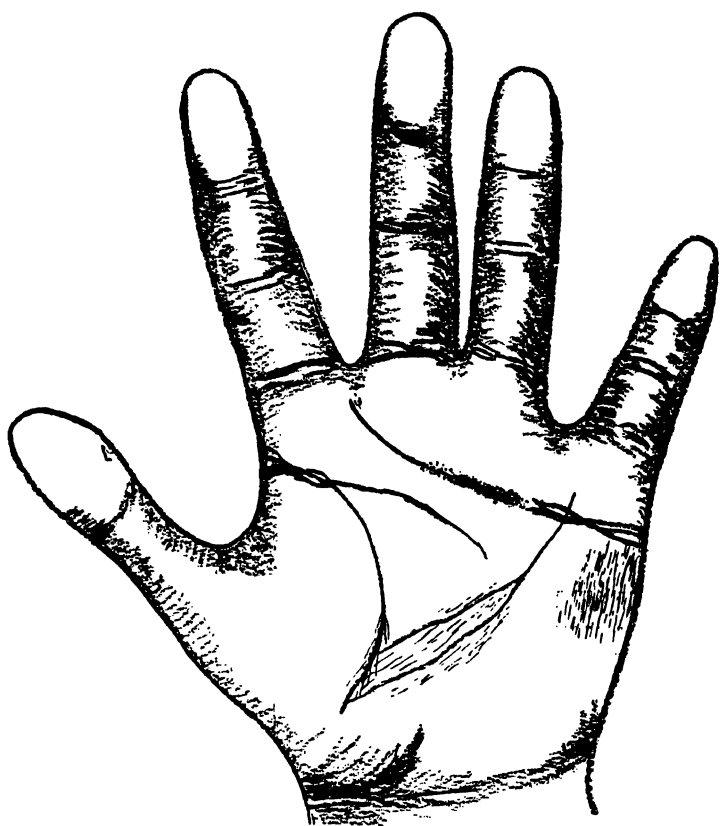
The Heart line is straight, indicating a feminine type of mental sex urge.

The Girdle of Venus is well marked across the Mounts, showing a sensitive and emotionally responsive nature.

There are a vast number of ray lines running from the Mount of Venus across the Fate line, indicating a great deal of opposition in the life. These opposing influences would not exist in a hand less sensitive. The sensitive, critical temperament of the subject makes him take notice of advice and criticisms that a more normally balanced person would entirely disregard.

It is interesting to note the position of the commencement of the Fate line. This begins on the Mount of Venus on the inside of the Life line, showing marked restriction in the early years. The subject did not attain any degree of independence until twenty-five years of age, at which point the Fate line crosses the Life line.

These formations bear out the facts. As a child the subject was very delicate. His health from twelve years of age was normal, but the excessive maternal care that the early health condition demanded was pursued until early manhood; in other words, he was tied to his 'mother's apron strings', with the result that the emotional sensitivity was increased to an abnormal degree, and the subject has become abnormally sensitive and apprehensive, and suffers from 'nerves'.



No. 50. A HEART CASE

# Practical Hand Reading

## A Heart Case

Illustration 50 is an exact reproduction of the hand of a woman of forty-eight years of age.

This woman, according to the medical diagnosis that had been given by one doctor, was suffering from acute indigestion. A second medical opinion gave asthma as the cause of ill-health; while a third opinion stated slight asthma and rheumatism.

The imprints were submitted to me by her husband.

Observe the fine upright lines on the edge of the hand beneath the little finger, showing slight acidity. A long broad island formed in the Health line, sloping to the edge of the Life line indicates a bronchial tendency. A mass of very fine sloping lines, in and surrounding the islanded formation, indicate a marked intestinal catarrhal condition.

The Heart line, about half-way along its length, suddenly develops the characteristic 'woolly' appearance caused by minute dots, in and surrounding the actual line. These indicate actual heart disease, and a clear break beneath Apollo indicates a heart attack with danger of death.

My diagnosis was a general catarrhal condition with acute heart disease, and I strongly advised the husband to take his wife to a heart specialist as there was danger of sudden and immediate death.

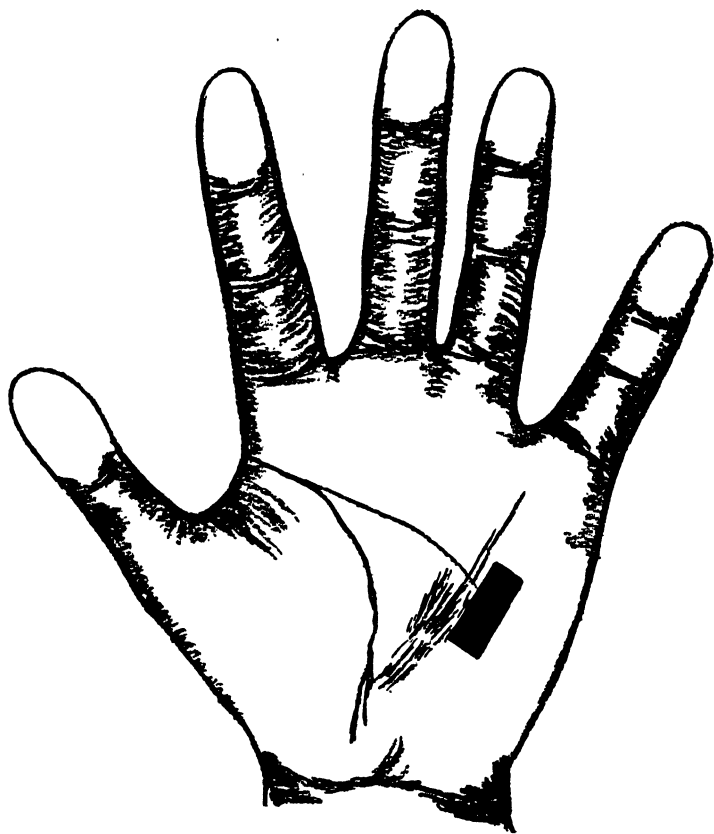
My diagnosis was entirely disregarded. The woman was sent on the advice of her doctor to Bournemouth, and two months later was found dead in bed.

A post-mortem revealed heart disease as the cause of death.

## Intestinal Ulceration

Illustration 51 is the hand of a man aged forty-nine.

This man had served his country from 1914 to the



No. 51. INTESTINAL ULCERATION

## Practical Hand Reading

close of the war, and had received only one minor wound—a small piece of shrapnel cut his forehead.

Just after demobilization and the resumption of civilian life he complained of acute indigestion, and he was under medical treatment periodically for digestive trouble.

At the beginning of 1931 he came to see me. The hand revealed the characteristic minute broken sloping lines indicative of faulty digestive action, and in the square black patch marked in Illustration 51, were the characteristic malformations of the skin's ridges showing the intestinal ulceration.

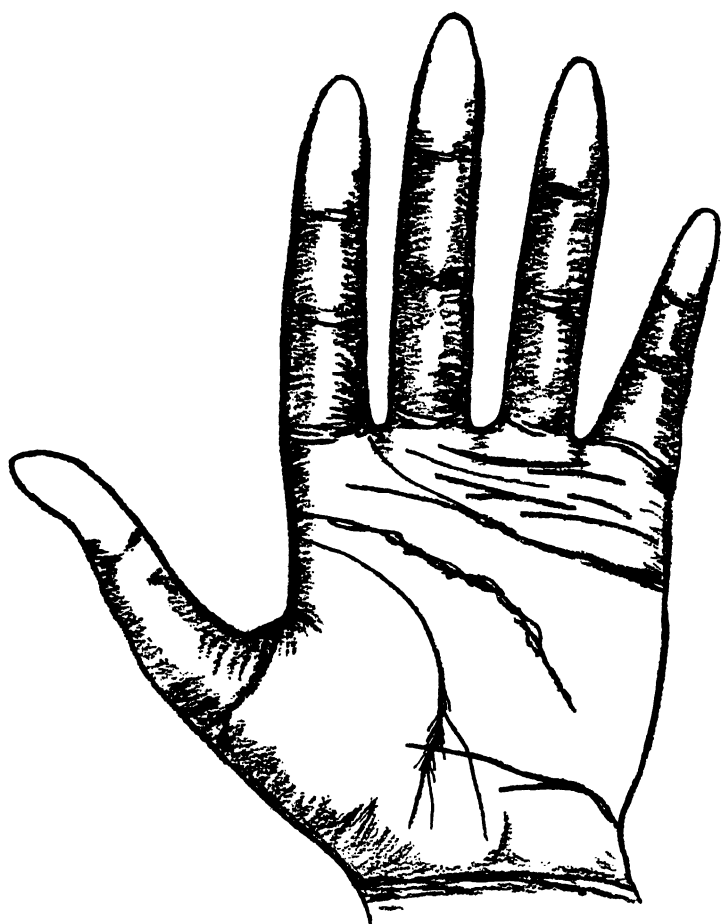
In the presence of his wife I gave this diagnosis and strongly advised competent medical treatment and strict attention to diet. He flatly refused to see a specialist, but agreed to follow a diet.

For some three months he adhered strictly to this, and the symptoms of the digestive disturbance gradually subsided. Later I again warned him that his condition was serious and that he must never depart from the diet table laid down.

It appears that he gradually enlarged his diet until one evening he partook of a very heavy meal comprised of every specially forbidden food and drink.

The next morning I received a frantic telephone message from his wife. Her husband was in great distress and refused to see a doctor, what should she do? I immediately went to see him and found that what I had anticipated might happen had actually happened; perforation had occurred.

Although in great pain he refused to have medical attention. On my own responsibility I summoned a doctor and he was immediately moved to hospital, and an operation was at once performed, which confirmed my original diagnosis. The subject died two hours later.



No. 52. A DRUG TAKER

## Practical Hand Reading

Had this man taken my advice he would have been alive still, and if he had consented, as I wanted him to do, to see a specialist, he would probably have lived to an old age.

### A Drug Taker

Illustration 52 is the hand of a social butterfly. This woman was forty-three years of age when she consulted me some years ago.

The fingers are long and pointed, indicating an imaginative, idealistic type of mind.

The thumb is supple, indicating impulsiveness.

The commencement of the Head line is slightly open, and this, combined with the supple thumb, shows a rash impetuosity; while the islanded formation observable in the Head line proves a marked lack of concentration.

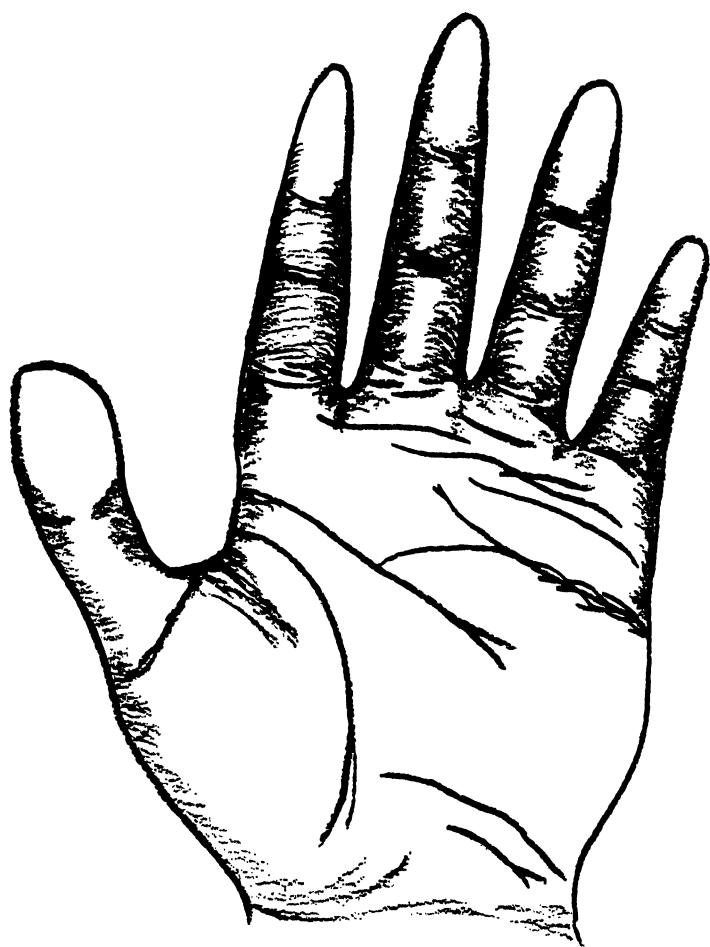
The Head line runs down towards the Mount of Luna, showing an imaginative type of mind.

The Heart line is of a bisexual type, one fork beginning actually at the base of the Jupiter finger, with the other fork commencing on the Mount itself.

A very broken Girdle of Venus indicates abnormal emotional sensitivity, while the branches from the Life line indicate an intensely restless disposition.

All the lines in this hand were extremely fine, showing a very highly strung and sensitive nervous system. With such an entire lack of mental stability, obviously there was danger that relief would be sought in the use of either drink or drugs.

I observed a forked Via Lasciva, one branch of which cut across the Life line on to the Mount of Venus. In the *left hand* this Via Lasciva *was only faintly marked* and was very short, but its excessive development in the



No. 53. AN EXTRAORDINARY TYPE



## Practical Hand Reading

right hand left no doubt in my mind of the existence of a drug habit.

The Life line showed signs of fraying, the warning signs of a dangerous diminishing of the vital forces of the body due to some excess and not disease.

I taxed this client with the facts as I saw them, and she admitted that I was right. I warned her of the serious consequences of its continuance and advised medical treatment. Some little while later she underwent a course of treatment which, for a time, has proved successful.

### An Extraordinary Type

Illustration 53 is the hand of a woman of forty-six.

It is curious that nearly all highly strung and 'nervy' types of people possess clear complexions, and unless there is any actual diseased condition, youthful looks. This particular woman looks not more than thirty years of age.

The fingers are short, thick and pointed, indicating a quick, intuitive type of mentality, appreciatively artistic and rather sensuous in tendency.

As in everything else, there are degrees of sensuality, and these short, fat, rather pointed fingers indicate *by themselves*, a normal sensuality, which, of course, can be quite healthy.

The thumb is short and its top joint heavy, indicating a strong will.

The Head line shows a definite 'open' formation, indicating quickness and self-confidence.

The space between the Head and Heart lines is wide, indicating an entire disregard for conventional restrictions.

The Heart line is short with one branch running

## An Extraordinary Type

down to touch the Head line. This indicates great determination, particularly in relation to sexual desire.

The Girdle of Venus is very broken with one part of the line running to the edge of the hand beneath the little finger; this betrays an abnormally high degree of emotional sensitivity and a very temperamental type of person; very emotionally responsive.

The Head line is fairly well formed, and with the degree of will-power shown in the thumb there is a logical directional control.

The Via Lasciva is well marked, *being much stronger in the right hand than the left*, showing the development of a craving for excitement or sensation.

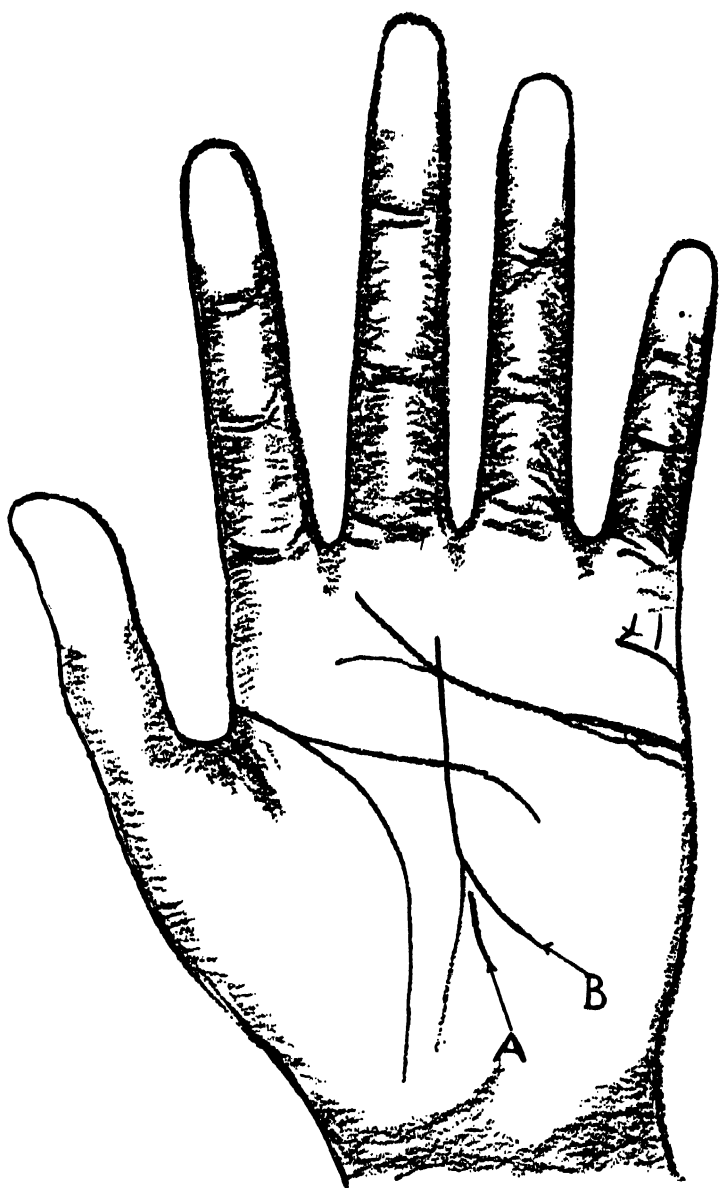
The outer edge of the hand shows the characteristic creative curve. There is an abnormal development of the sex urges, bisexual in type. This woman succeeded in seducing the wife of her friend. Her sexual promiscuity and bisexuality has caused a great deal of trouble.

## Superstition

How far the indications of the hand can be relied upon to give definite indications of the future, apart from psychological or health conditions, is a very debatable point.

Illustration 54 is the hand of a woman of twenty-four. This imprint was taken some years ago when the subject was engaged to be married. The hand shows the affectionate influence marked A, ceasing, and marriage taking place with the influence marked B, all within the space of twelve months.

Above the 'marriage' line there is a fine line beginning with a small cross. This indicates danger of a miscarriage. Another fine perpendicular line indicates the birth of a son.



No. 54. SUPERSTITION

## Superstition

These indications were proved by subsequent events.

The engagement was broken off and marriage took place to another man, all within two years. The first conception resulted in a miscarriage, and twelve months later a son was born.

### Tiny Hands and What They Tell

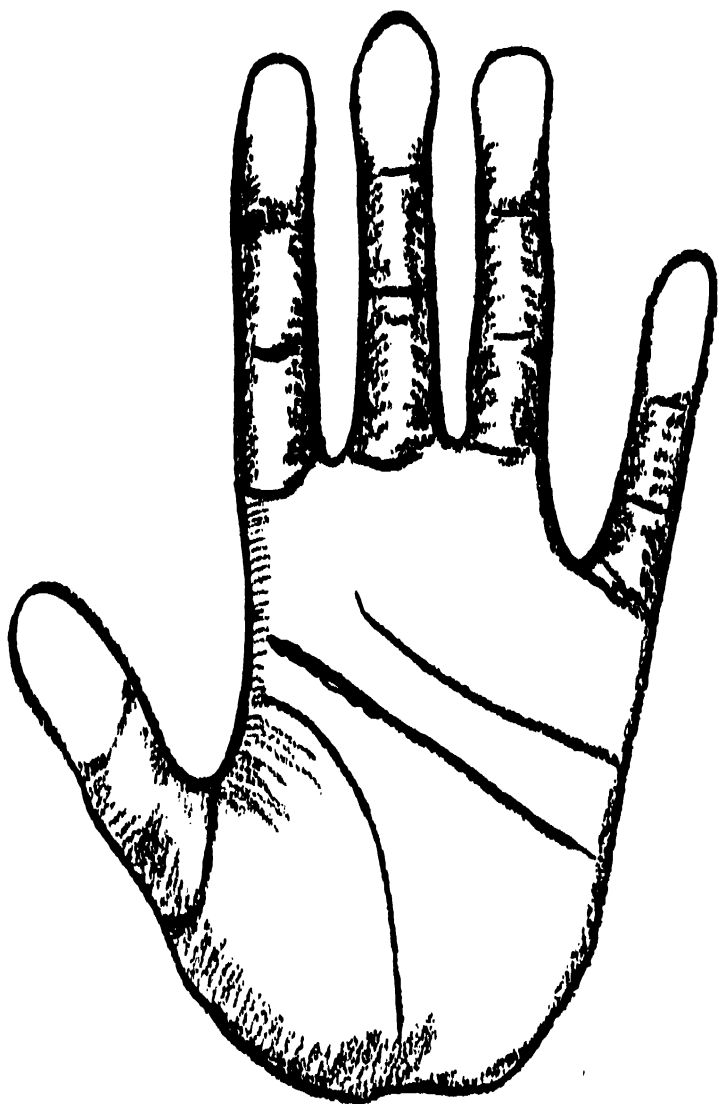
In the old days the birth of a child caused a flutter in the dove-cots of the fortune-tellers. Before the physician had left the house the magician had entered, bearing the 'Fate' of the infant. But to-day we know that many things which the ancients regarded as miraculous are only the workings of natural laws of which they knew nothing.

A scientific survey of the hand, as valuable as it is in the case of adults, is doubly so in the case of children. The hands betray latent potentialities for good and evil.

Therefore it is possible, having once discovered these, to enhance the child's chances of success in life by the development of its mental abilities, and by the eradication of any undesirable traits or qualities, in order to diminish its chances of failure. Also, such a scientific survey would often succeed in obviating the unnecessary wastage of both time and money if the child were trained for some career for which it is either mentally, emotionally or physically unfitted.

It will be interesting for the student to take impressions of children's hands periodically over a number of years. The changes that will take place in the palmar markings will be very instructive and valuable data.

Illustration No. 55 is the hand of a child of three years of age. The fingers of this boy's hands are short and rather thick, indicating a quick, intuitive type of



No. 55. THE HAND OF A CHILD

## Tiny Hands and What They Tell

mentality. The fingers are all slightly spatulate, showing a natural inborn activity.

The thumb is well shaped but inclined to be supple.

Observe the abnormal Head line. It sweeps right across the palm in a perfectly straight line. This indicates enormous calculative ability. The commencement of this Head line is 'open', showing impetuosity, which is accentuated by the formation of the thumb, and the islands in the first part of the Head line complete the proof of lack of concentration. An active and restless disposition.

The Head line does not commence exactly at the edge of the hand by the thumb, there being a very minute space before the line suddenly appears. This indicates that mental activity was late or slow in awakening.

This boy will undoubtedly be very practical and very quick. The whole hand betrays logical constructive ability, and, in spite of the lack of concentration in the early years, with proper training this boy can become a brilliant and successful engineer.

The psychical defect that is likely to mar his chances of success is that of natural impetuosity and impatience. This, by the wise training of parents, can be corrected.

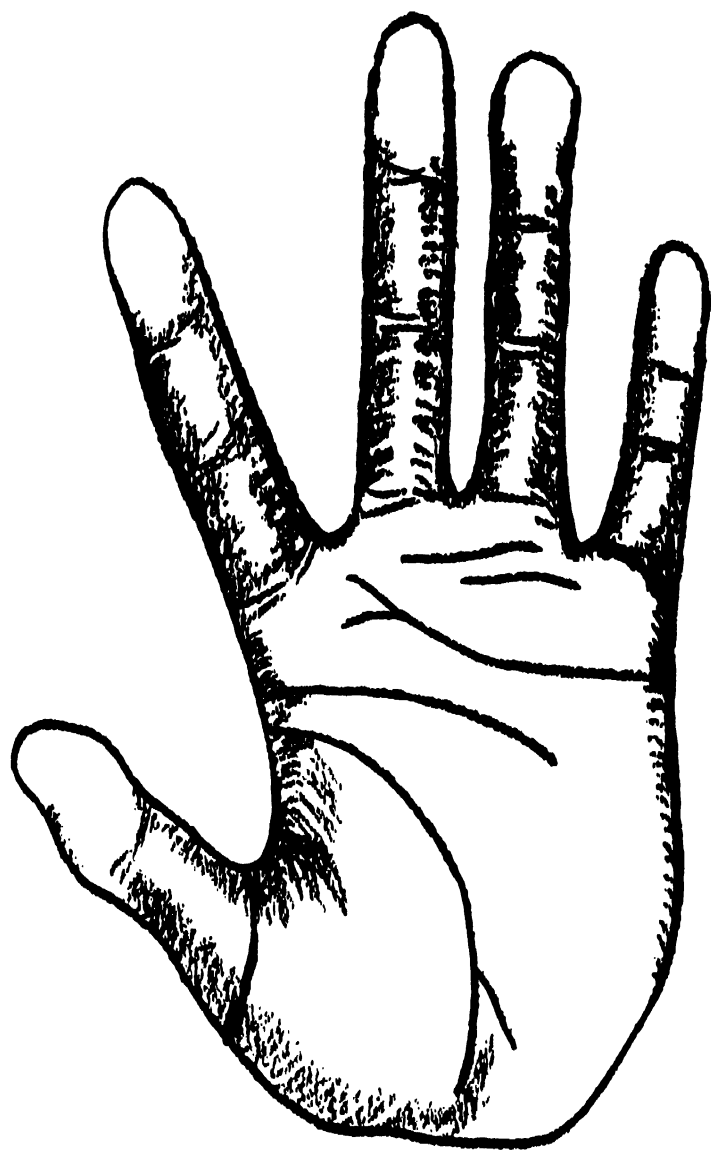
## An Actress of the Future

Illustration 56 is the hand of a girl of ten.

The fingers of this hand are fairly long and conical in their terminations with the exception of the finger of Apollo, which is slightly spatulate at its tip. This indicates histrionic ability.

The outer edge of the hand below the little finger shows an outward curve indicative of creative ability.

The first finger stands out strongly from the hand,



No. 56. AN ACTRESS OF THE FUTURE

## An Actress of the Future

which shows independence and a desire for power. This girl is ambitious. The thumb is well shaped giving indications of intelligence and a strong will.

The formation of the Head line betrays a well-balanced mind. And slightly 'open' at its commencement it indicates self-confidence.

The Heart line is normal, and the Girdle of Venus is sufficiently marked to indicate just the right degree of emotional sensitivity necessary for the enaction of emotional characterizations.

I have advised the parents that this child should be trained for the stage.

## Undesirable Traits

You will find that very often the discovery of any undesirable traits in a child's hands is either disbelieved or your statements meet with disapproval.

Parents so often fail to realize that they are the very people who really know the least about their children, as they also fail to realize that the early discovery of undesirable traits may mean the child's salvation from disaster in later years.

Illustration 57 is the hand of a boy of eight years of age.

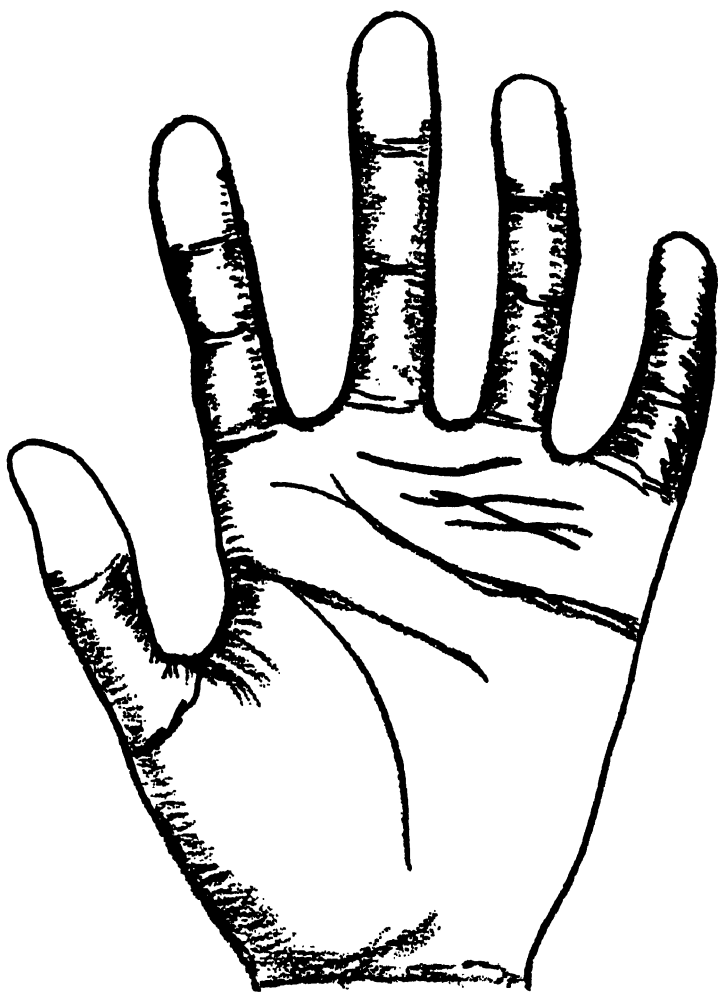
A typical case. Observe the Apollo and Mercury fingers; both curve inwards.

The thumb is well shaped, the top joint showing a slightly supple tendency indicative of some impetuosity.

The Head and Life lines are tightly joined at their commencement. This indicates a marked lack of self-confidence, a timid and nervous disposition, and, as I pointed out to the parents, this boy must be taught to rely upon himself.

The first finger is rather short, which indicates a lack





No. 57. UNDESIRABLE TRAITS

## Undesirable Traits

of self-esteem; a lack of personal pride which predisposes to the commission of mean and petty acts.

The Girdle of Venus is well marked, indicating a very high degree of emotional sensitivity.

What do these indications obviously tell us?

The Head and Life lines tightly joined show timid cautiousness, the existence of a fear complex, which is accentuated by the Girdle of Venus, and the emotional sensitivity which it betrays. The formation of the first finger betrays lack of pride. The Apollo and Mercury fingers indicate a cunning tactfulness. Therefore, obviously this child would lie, not because of any actual evil, but because he would not consider within himself that it was wrong to avoid by any means punishment for childish sins. If these tendencies are not corrected he would later in life become a lying, unscrupulous fellow, a man who would sell his friends to save himself.

## A Business Man of the Future

Illustration 58 is a hand that is typical of the child who will become a successful business man in the future.

The fingers are short and well shaped. These fingers indicate a quick, thoughtful mentality. The inward curve of the little finger betrays the existence of a tactful shrewdness, which is in no way dishonest.

The thumb shows intelligence and determination.

The Head line is straight and is lightly joined to the Life line, which shows a restraining element of caution.

Even in these early years this child shows signs of a commercial instinct, and it is interesting for the student to notice how the Fate line in this hand indicates the probable trend of his life. It begins in the centre of the palm and is rather faint at its start. Suddenly it shows a change at twenty-six years of age: a break with the

## Practical Hand Reading

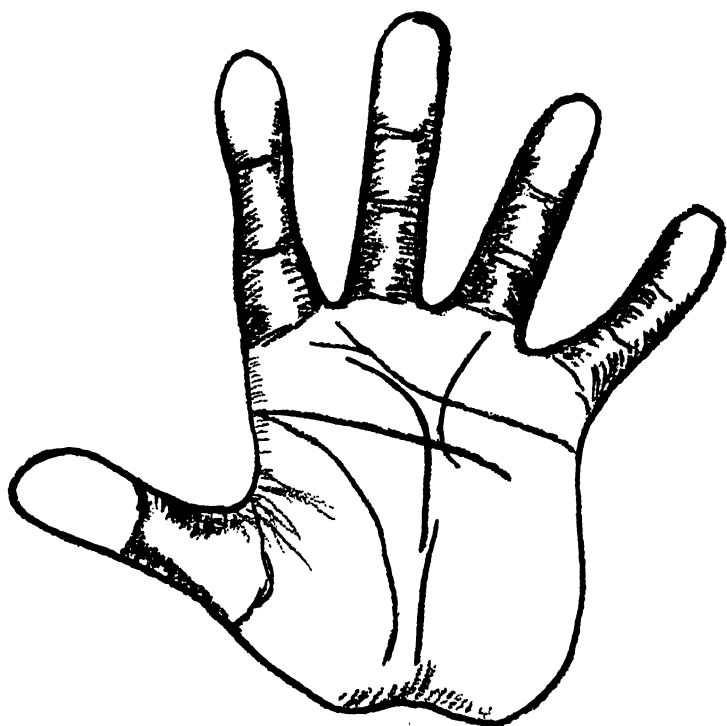
two broken ends overlapping, and thereafter it sweeps in an unbroken line up the hand to curve over towards the Mount of Jupiter, while the Apollo line rises parallel with the Fate line about the thirty-second year—a hand that most surely predicts outstanding commercial success.

As no human being is perfect, one does not expect to find perfection in the hand of any child. It is a common complaint to be heard from the lips of those people of an older generation, that the children of to-day are not the same as in their own young days. While I quite realize that the elders of all times have uttered similar complaints, and they have often been tinged with exaggeration, to some extent I agree in this matter; but it is not the fault of the children.

The present day child is the same human thing that was content with his hoops and spinning tops. The difference between the two types is caused by the general conditions existing in contemporary times.

To-day we are inclined to become too carefully scientific where the welfare of our children is concerned. It is in this direction that psychology has run riot.

I agree that emotional repression is a bad thing, but undue expression is just as bad. Almost every week there appear in the Press articles by pseudo-psychologists on the training of children, and nearly all of these deal with the harmful effects of undue repression; they beg the parents to permit their children to 'express themselves'. That is all very well so far as it goes, but it means that undesirable traits are to develop unhampered and it tends to foster a disregard of and lack of consideration for other people and an undue magnification of the individual; it pre-disposes to the development of the egotist, and I think that it will be better for the world of



No. 58. A BUSINESS MAN OF THE FUTURE

## Practical Hand Reading

the future if the training of children to-day included a greater degree of discipline.

The majority of children are naturally inclined to be disobedient, but if this natural tendency is not trained or made subservient to a disciplinary control it will develop a harmful wilfulness; and in spite of my remarks relative to emotional repression in the earlier part of this book, I am convinced that if a sense of discipline, a sense of one's duty to one's fellows in the world at large, is instilled into the developing mind of the child, it will be better not only for the child, but for the nation.

Parenthood is a heavy responsibility and entails duties that must be discharged with wisdom and discretion, in spite of all this nonsense about allowing a child to express itself, to develop its ego and to attain 'spiritual unfoldment'; if wilful disobedience is corrected by the age-old method of corporal punishment it will neither interfere with the child's mental development nor with its 'spiritual unfoldment'—whatever that may mean.

I was recently a guest at a house where the young daughter, aged six, demanded jam with her bread and butter at tea. The child calmly grabbed the jam when told she must not have any more and said, 'I will', and proceeded to plaster her bread and butter with a strawberry confection. Her mother mildly said, 'That is very naughty, dear.' The child amazed me by turning to her mother and saying, 'Don't be a fool, I want it.'

Later this woman told me that her daughter was 'difficult'. I suggested corporal correction, and this idiotic woman said, 'It would be such a shock to her nerves.' So I replied, 'A smacked bottom would not be such a shock to her nervous system as the shock that life will give her one of these days, and I do not blame the child for its disobedience, I blame you. And when she makes

## A Business Man of the Future

a mess of life you will blame her. Actually the fault is yours.'

After all, human beings learn, like every other animal, by experience. A dog learns by painful experience that fire burns, and children in the same way should learn that certain forms of conduct, or certain forms of self-expression, bring punishment. If they do not learn this lesson early they will have to learn it later in life, when it will be a very much more painful lesson.

Educational authorities, while rightly endeavouring to assist in the correct selection of a child's career, have devised a number of psychological tests. This work could be accomplished much more quickly and exactly by making a brief but accurate survey of imprints of the children's hands.

The psychological tests applied by educational authorities might show that a child was fitted to become an accountant, but no psychological test yet devised will reveal latent pre-dispositions, which, undetected, would destroy that child's chances of success in such a vocation. The hand reveals all this at a glance.

Of course there is a big difficulty to be overcome; that is the prejudice that exists against hand reading, which, as I have already stated, has been caused by its misuse and by a lack of anything like extensive intelligent investigation into its claims. But it is a method which will ultimately be employed.

This examination of the hand could be used also by employers of labour. Particularly during some of the hand reading offers made by me in the magazines, I have employed numbers of typists. When selecting the applicants I have disregarded their diplomas and their references and noticed their hands.

In one case a girl applied for a post that I had vacant, and she came armed with all sorts of diplomas and refer-

## Practical Hand Reading

ences. In the test letter that I dictated she could not spell the word *gastric*. Her hand showed her to be a silly, automatic sort of creature devoid of intelligence and initiative. She would probably be quite successful in some ordinary routine work, sending out duplicate copies of advertisements, but in any work demanding thoughtful concentration she would be hopeless.

I concluded these experiments in employment and intelligence by giving a vacant position to a girl who had excellent references and certificates for typing and shorthand, *in spite of the fact that her hand told me that she was quite irresponsible*. She had been in my employ for two weeks when I received a letter from an irate client—a man. It transpired that I had dictated to this particular typist a letter answering a query about his health. She had been unable, or incapable, of reading back her shorthand script and had put in some information on her own account. She had informed this man that his condition was due to an ovarian inflammation.

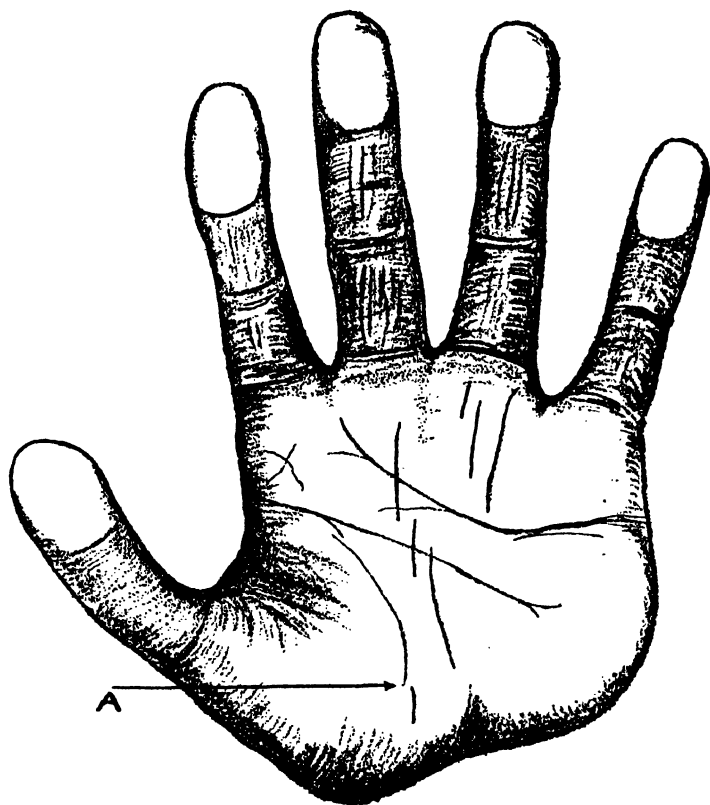
I admit that I should have read this letter carefully, but that particular evening I had a whole pile of letters to sign. But he was justified. Needless to say the young lady lost her job, and never since then have I taken any notice of any certificates or diplomas.

## Famous Hands

The following are some representative and exact reproductions of the original imprints of famous hands in my possession.

Illustration 59 is a reproduction of the imprint of the right hand of the late Sir Edward Marshall-Hall, K.C.

Observe the long, slightly waisted fingers, which indicate a thoughtful and critical mentality. The little finger is abnormally long, indicating the ability to ex-



*Ed Marshall-Hall*  
1925

No. 59 THE RIGHT HAND OF THE LATE  
SIR EDWARD MARSHALL-HALL, K.C.



## Practical Hand Reading

press with fluency thoughts and arguments; the ability to marshal in logical sequence facts in debate.

The thumb indicates intelligence and a strong will.

The Head line in this hand shows some cautiousness and a well-balanced mentality, the type of mind that can weigh the pros and cons of a problem very nicely; and although cautiousness is shown in the closed formation of the Head and Life lines, the strength of the thumb gives courage, the courage of his convictions. The outer edge of the hand shows a slight outward curve. This indicates constructive creative ability, being, as it is, in combination with the long thoughtful fingers.

It is interesting to observe that the break marked A, towards the end of the Life line had grown since the first imprint was taken in 1924, and this break indicated the year in which he died.

### The Late Earl of Birkenhead

Illustration 60 is an exact reproduction of the imprint of the right hand of the late Earl of Birkenhead. These fingers are similar in type to those of Marshall-Hall.

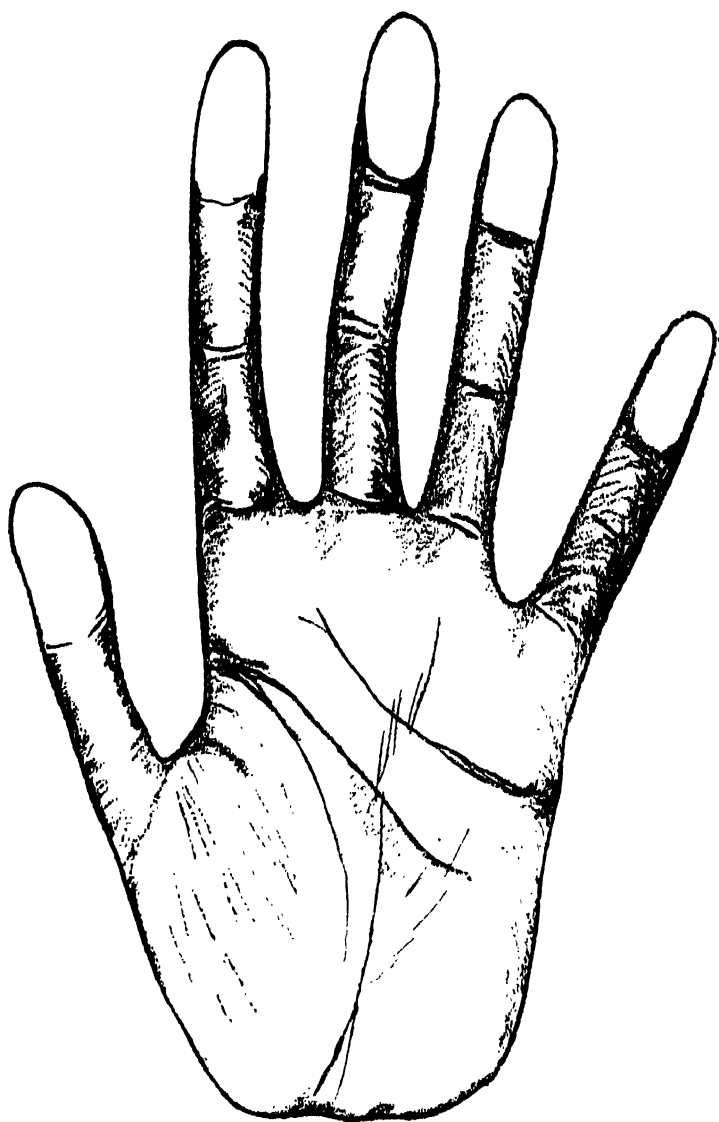
The thumb is well shaped and intelligent, tending at its top joint to be slightly supple, proving an element of impulsiveness.

The little finger is abnormally long, betraying his abilities as an orator.

The impulsiveness shown in the thumb, plus this conversational fluency, produces a ready wit.

The outer edge of the hand is straight, showing practical, logical, reasoning ability.

It is interesting to observe how the Life line gradually fades away to indicate the failure of the vital forces of the body.



No. 60. THE RIGHT HAND OF THE LATE  
EARL OF BIRKENHEAD

# Practical Hand Reading

## The Late Sir William Orpen, R.A.

Illustration 61 is the right hand of the late Sir William Orpen, R.A., the famous artist.

Observe the formation of the fingers; they are of the practical type, with slightly spatulate tips, which indicates activity. The fingers being short, mental quickness is also shown.

The thumb is firm, showing determination, and, standing well away from the hand, it indicates independence of thought.

Note the outer edge of the hand beneath the little finger; there is a decided curve. This curve indicates creative artistic ability, which the practical fingers are able to express with either pen or brush.

The little finger is long, and indicates literary ability.

Sir William Orpen was an author as well as a brilliant artist. His Success line—that running up to the base of the third finger—is so deep as almost to become a dent.

## Miss Sybil Thorndike

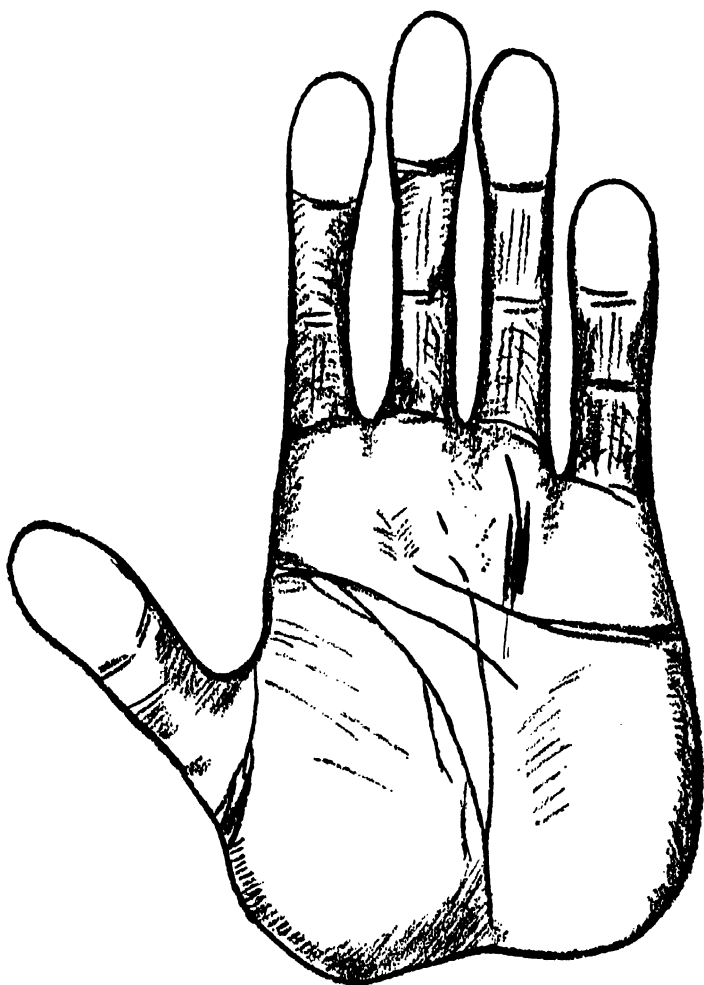
Illustration 62 is the hand of Miss Sybil Thorndike. This hand reveals the secret of her fame.

The ending of the third finger is slightly spatulate. This indicates the ability to express emotion, artistic activity and the ability to act. The other fingers are of the practical type.

The line running straight up to the base of the third finger indicates unusual success.

The Head line is straight and clear, indicating practical reason and logic.

The thumb is inclined to bend back away from the hand, indicating impulsiveness; but at the same time the top joint shows determination.



No. 61. THE RIGHT HAND OF THE LATE  
SIR WILLIAM ORPEN, R.A.

## Practical Hand Reading

The pointed first finger indicates artistic ability coupled with the power to create and to feel emotion.

The firm Head line denotes a keen sense of the practical, while her gift for artistic expression is shown in the formation of the third finger. The combination of these qualities has made Miss Thorndike's fame assured.

## Professor Einstein

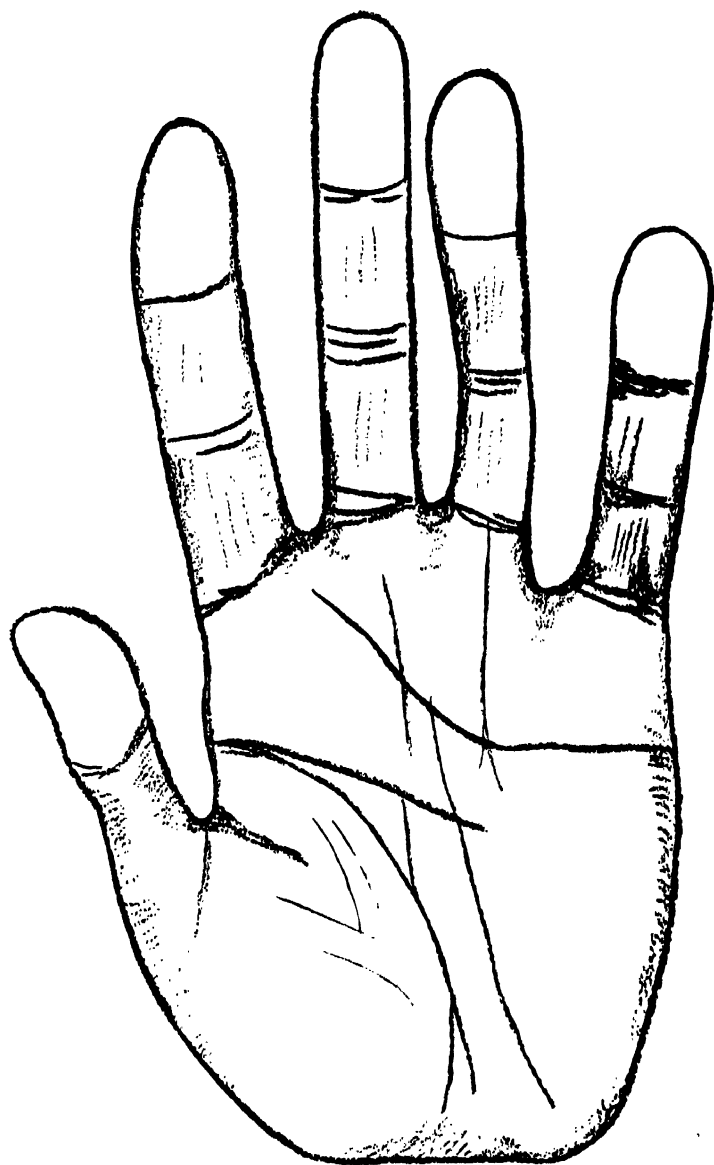
The imprint of the right hand of Professor Einstein, Illustration 63, is truly remarkable, as naturally it should be, seeing that it is the hand of a remarkable man.

The fingers are short, indicating a quick, intuitive mind. The terminations are conical, betraying artistic tendencies. Professor Einstein is a musician as well as a great mathematician.

The most remarkable thing about this hand is the abnormal Head line, beginning with a slightly open space it sweeps in a gentle curve across the hand to end in a forked formation touching the outer edge of the palm. The upper fork being the longer indicates the predominance of the calculative abilities—the hand of a genius.

## Finis

I do not for one moment pretend to have written all that there is to be written or said about hands. I have only endeavoured to present a number of facts that have been discovered by careful observation and which entirely alter, as well as enhance, the whole value of hand reading.



No. 62. THE RIGHT HAND OF MISS SYBIL  
THORNDIKE

## Practical Hand Reading

The principles expounded in this book will, I think, prove that the reading of hands is not the childish pastime that so many people believe it to be, and that we are, to some extent, masters of our Fate.

I have endeavoured to show how important it is to have some accurate knowledge of oneself. To a very considerable extent your life is a reflection of yourself. Defects in yourself will often produce material difficulties in your life.

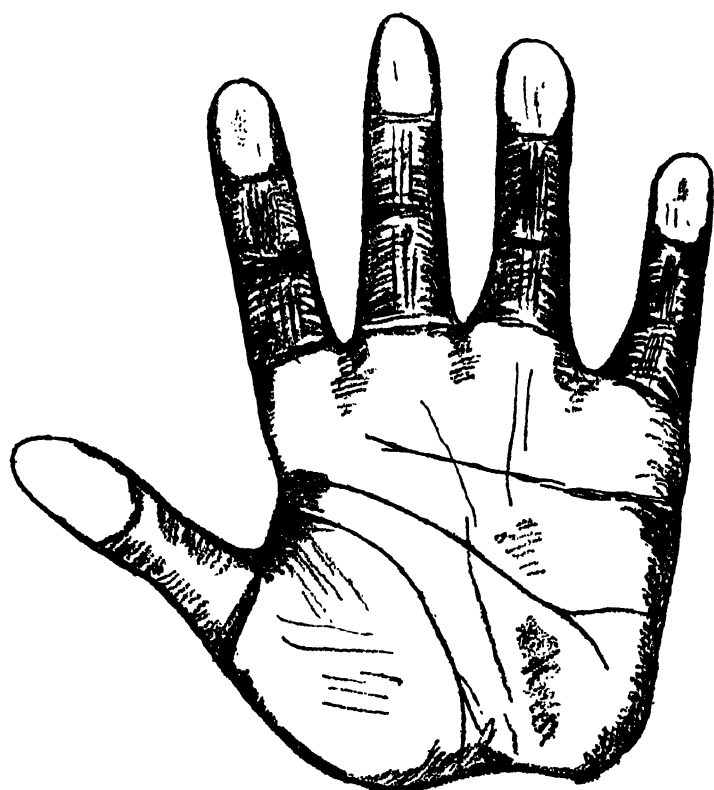
The individual psychological composition will minimize or will intensify your personal reactions to circumstances; therefore, to a great extent, circumstances are aided or controlled by yourself. Many people have said that they do know themselves, but in so many of these cases I have found that they only *imagine* that they know themselves.

I am quite convinced that where this study of the hand is used intelligently and scientifically, it can be of enormous value in so many directions.

I have often heard it said, 'Palmistry? I don't believe in it, its all nonsense.' But this has been said of so many things at various times, and as it is generally by people who know nothing of the subject, one takes no notice of such stupid remarks. Recently I heard this said about vaccination, and I asked, 'Yes, but what do you know about vaccination?' The man knew nothing about the subject, and to those who say that this reading of hands is *all nonsense*, I reply, 'What do you know about it?'

If this subject is examined carefully and scientifically, you will be impressed, as I am, with its vital importance and value.

The many thousands of letters on my files *definitely prove beyond all doubt that the hand does give the information that I have claimed for it and that the value and the importance of hand reading is not being over-estimated.*



No. 63. THE RIGHT HAND OF PROFESSOR  
EINSTEIN



## Practical Hand Reading

You may believe in hand reading, or you may deny that the shape and markings of the hand tell anything. It does not matter. The facts have been established beyond doubt or argument.

'Just you publish and teach what you have found to be true, whatever the opinions of the big-wigs or little-wigs may be of it.' And this I have endeavoured to do. I have proved that the facts given in this book are true, and that these principles of hand reading are correct.

Therefore, I am not bothered by what 'little-wigs or big-wigs' may think. Whether you are a 'little-wig' or otherwise, you cannot alter facts or kill Truth.

# Index

- Abrams, Albert*, 165  
 Actress of the future, 245  
 Affectionate influences, 158  
 Alcohol and sex, 75  
 Alterations, importance of, 107  
 Alteration of lines, case of, 107, 137  
 Aluminium, 188  
 Ambition, 105  
 Anaemia, 66  
 Angina pectoris, 168  
 Apex, 37  
 Apollo, finger of, 31  
     „ line of, 54, 152, 154  
     „ mount of, 37, 40, 42  
 Astrology, 30, 134  
 Auto-intoxication, 171, 172, 201  
 Automatic nerve action, 13  
  
*Bandler, Professor S. Wyllis*, 23  
*Bauer*, 75, 81, 82  
*Bell, Dr. Robert*, 196  
*Bendien, Dr.*, 165, 196  
*Benham, William G.*, 33  
*Birkenhead, late Earl of*, 256  
 Birth control, 76, 77  
     „ „ importance of method, 78  
 Bisexual type, 90  
 Brain, nutrition of, 68  
  
 Calculation, 63  
 Cancer, 16, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200  
     „ treatment, 197  
 Career wrongly chosen, 228  
  
 Chemical balance, 167  
 Chest conditions, 195  
 Children, 102, 161  
 Children's hands, 243  
 Clairvoyance, 136  
 Coition, 76  
 Coitus interruptus, 78  
 Cold hands, 23  
*Collins, late Inspector*, 118  
 Commercial predisposition, 249  
 Concentration, lack of, 66, 68  
 Consistency of hand, 27  
 Contradictions, apparent, 55  
 Criticism, 18  
*Crocombe, Leonard*, 128  
 Crosses, 105, 157  
  
 Deduction, importance of, 32, 38, 55, 62  
 Dental weakness, 190  
 Diabetes, 201  
 Diet, importance of, 173, 174, 188  
 Discretion, 207  
 Disease, effect on skin, 15  
     „ its prevention, 17  
 Domestic tragedies, 71  
 Drug addict, 238  
*Dunne, J. W.*, 143  
  
*Einstein, Professor Albert*, 260  
*Ellis, Havelock*, 80  
 Emotional repression, 171  
     „ sensitivity, 99, 230  
 Endocrine activity, 23, 170

# Index

- Erotic stimulation and dress, 83  
 „ „ importance of, 82  
 Fate line, 54, 147, 148, 149  
 „ „ broken, 149  
 „ „ islands in, 150  
 „ „ split, 152  
 Fertility, extent of, 102  
 Finger, first, indications of, 30  
 „ fourth, indications of, 31  
 „ second, indications of, 31  
 „ third, indications of, 31  
 Finger-prints, 43, 118  
 „ „ psychological importance of, 46  
 „ „ types of, 44  
 Fingers, indications of, 27, 177, 178  
 „ long, 28  
 „ of the gorilla, 30  
 „ phalanges of, 32  
 „ short, 28  
 „ thick, 29  
 Finger-tips, indications of, 32  
*Fisk, E. L., M.D.*, 172, 173  
  
*Galloway, Sir James*, 120  
 Girdle of Venus, 54, 99  
 Gorilla savagei, 23  
  
*Hall, Sir Edward Marshall-, K.C.*,  
 48, 58, 118, 119, 137, 254  
 Hands as legal evidence, 46, 47  
 „ left and right, 100  
 Head line, 52  
 „ „ balanced, 63  
 „ „ dotted appearance of, 69  
 „ „ double formation of, 66  
 „ „ and fingers, 64  
 „ „ forked termination, 64  
 „ „ islands in, 66  
 „ „ and self-confidence, 60  
 Head line and timidity, 62  
 Health affecting life, 107, 137  
 „ „ mind, 214, 226  
 „ line, 54  
 Heart case, 234  
 „ conditions, 193, 194  
 „ line, 52  
 „ „ indications of, 83  
 Homicidal predisposition, case of,  
 47  
*Hutchinson and Rainy*, 177  
  
 Identification by finger-print, 15  
 Imagination, 63  
 Imprints, fixing, 49  
 „ importance of, 48, 183  
 „ ink for, 49  
 „ methods of taking, 49, 50  
 „ micro-photographs of, 51  
 „ paper for, 50  
 Impulsiveness, 40  
 Inadequate mastication, 188  
 Incompatibility, case of, 222  
 Influence lines, 102  
 Inherited defects, case of, 211  
 Insanity, 202, 205  
 Instability, case of, 224  
 Intestinal conditions, 186  
 „ ulceration, 234  
 Intuition, line of, 54  
 Islands, 104  
  
*Jones & Co., Messrs. Samuel*, 50  
 Jupiter, finger of, 30  
 „ Mount of, 37, 38  
  
*Keith, Professor Sir Arthur, M.D.*,  
 21, 120  
 Kidney, faulty action, 188

# Index

- Lesbianism, 240
- Letters, 125
  - „ amusing, 129, 130
- Life line, 51, 56
  - „ „ broken, 57
  - „ „ fine lines from, 57, 156
  - „ „ and length of life, 18, 58
- Lines, alteration of, 46, 106
- Luck, adverse, 34
- Luna, Mount of, 41
  
- Maeterlinck*, 113
- Malaria, 201
- Marriage, 72, 157, 158, 160
- Marriage lines, 102
- Marsh, Garry*, 69
- Masturbation, 80, 81
  - „ excessive, 88
- Materialism, 65
  - „ case of, 218
- McCarrison, Robert, M.D., D.Sc.*, 173
- Memory, loss of, 68, 203
- Mental deficiency, 204
  - „ strain, 203
- Mercury, finger of, 31
  - „ Mount of, 41
- Metchnikoff*, 15
- Micro-photographs, 51, 124
- Miscarriages, 102
- Mounts of the hand, 36
- Murder, 146, 220
  
- Nails, indications of, 179, 180
- Nerve disease and sex, 74
- Neurasthenia, 206
- Newsholme, H. P., M.D.*, 170
  
- Obstinacy, case of, 35
- Orpen, Sir William, R.A.*, 258
  
- Pain, 15, 165
- Paper for imprints, 50
- Parenthood, its responsibility, 252
- Pessaries, 78
- Pfister*, 74
- Planetary radiation, 13
- Prediction, case of, 241
- Prediction and the psychological factor, 112
- Pseudo-psychologists, 250
- Psychological factors, importance
  - of, 145, 176
  - „ tests, 16, 253
  
- Rainy and Hutchinson*, 177
- Ray lines, 150
- Resistance lines, 102
- Restless disposition, 60
- Rheumatism, 185, 192
- Richards, W. Guyon, M.D.*, 197
- Ridge pattern, 46, 112
  - „ „ and disease, 182
  
- Sadism, case of, 96
- Saturn, finger of, 31, 38
  - „ Mount of, 37, 38
- Segrave, Sir Henry*, 58, 138
- Self-confidence, 60
  - „ „ lack of, 60
- Sex coldness, case of, 92
  - „ factors, 71
  - „ inequality, case of, 73
  - „ inhibition, case of, 79
  - „ inversion, 80
  - „ „ case of, 92
  - „ lack of control, case of, 86
  - „ and nerve disease, 74
  - „ repression, 74
  - „ tendencies, 38
  - „ types of, 83, 84

# Index

- Sex urges, 171
- „ „ physical, case of, 88
- „ „ types of, 73
- Simpson, Sir James Young*, 165
- Skin, composition of, 14
- „ disease, effect on, 15, 181
- „ functions, 24
- „ texture, 24, 26
- Squares, 154, 156
- Stirling, William*, 119
- Sub-conscious mind, 106
- Suicide, 146, 205
- Swaffer, Hannen*, 138
- 
- Thorndike, Miss Sybil*, 258
- Thumb, composite, 35
- „ firm, 33
- „ supple, 34
- „ types of, 33
- Thyroid deficiency, 23
- Time, 162
- 
- Travel lines, 60, 161
- Types of hands, 27
- 
- Undesirable traits, 247
- Unnatural foods, 187
- Uterine weakness, 191
- 
- Vaccines, 14
- Velde, Dr. Van de*, 71
- Venereal disease, 100
- Venus, Mount of, 42
- Via Lasciva, 54, 100
- Vitamins, 173
- 
- Wade, John Reed*, 120, 121, 122,  
123, 124, 125, 127
- Whitelaw, David*, 118
- Williams, Bransby*, 118
- Will-power, 33, 65
- „ „ lack of, 35
- Wright, Almroth*, 165



my own work, but to some predetermined influence exerted by such and such combination of planets."

Hoogerwoerd shook his head.

"You do nothing of the kind. *The greater part of our destiny is dependent upon ourselves.* Let's put it in ordinary business language—sixty per cent. of our life depends on will, energy, and the struggle against our own natural laziness. We are not the puppets of the planets. We are free—not like a stone which is in reality thrown, yet imagines itself to be flying. We are really free. But we *are* influenced by the tendencies of the planets."

"Tendencies," I said thoughtfully. "No force. And these tendencies alone are predetermined and predictable."

"That's right. What's more, you can force the positive tendencies by using your utmost amount of activity and diminish or even avoid the negative ones by remaining passive. Everybody has felt that at some period of his life he was lucky or unlucky. Well, *we know when we are going to be lucky and when unlucky.*"

"I see. Then it's impossible to predict what actually will happen, but only what sort of tendencies will approach us."

"Exactly. But in many cases the statement of the clear facts is obvious. One is, as it were, in the position of a general who has at his call an excellent secret service. He will be informed in time about the movement of the enemy—and of every movement of the allies too. That's why there is nothing so stupid as the outlook I so often meet which says: 'I don't want to know what will happen to me. If it's coming I shall have to fight anyhow—if I can fight it at all.' That's politics *à la* ostrich, nothing else."

"Is it possible to predict the day of somebody's death by astrology?"

"No. It is only possible to see if there is any likelihood of a death before one's natural time—a death by accident, for instance. A possibility, mind you, not a certainty. There is no such thing as certainty in this matter. But if there is a likelihood, then it is avoidable in nearly every single case. The number of people who would have continued to live if they had been astrologically advised is legion."

"And in the case of a war, for instance?"

Hoogerwoerd raised his bushy eyebrows.

"The tendency of a war can be calculated by the help of the so-called mundane astrology. The danger-point is naturally heavily increased for everybody, whatever his personal horoscope may be. But it will be diminished or increased in proportion to the strength of the single horoscope, and in proportion to the momentary aspects of the native. The miraculous escapes from an inevitable death of which we so often hear is bound up with the protecting aspects in its effects."

I shook my head.

"And what do religious people think about this opinion of yours? You exclude God—His help—His mercy——"

"I do nothing of the kind," replied Hoogerwoerd, almost angrily. "Astrology and religion have never been opposed, but are supplementary. My own private opinion in this case is irrelevant, but there is just as little reason for a faithful Christian or Jew to avoid astrology as there is for him to avoid putting a lightning-conductor on the roof of his house."

I smiled.

"I have heard of narrow-minded people who call it impiety to do just that."

Hoogerwoerd nodded grimly.

"Narrow-minded people call lots of things impiety because they themselves cannot conceive of a God who is